Unexploded ordnance found off Managaha coast. » PAGE 3

2 tour firms found liable to pay $2.3M for tourist's death. » PAGE 6

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Torres: Deposition a fishing expedition to embarrass me

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

» Torres, through OAG, seeks court's protective order

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres has filed a motion seeking a court order to protect him from being embarrassed, annoyed, or unduly burdened by an "excessive deposition" at the hands of Glen Hunter's lawyer.

Torres, through assistant attorney general David Lochabay, filed Friday in Superior Court a motion for protective order after he appeared for his deposition in court last Jan. 29.

Lochabay said the transcript of the two-hour deposition makes it clear that Hunter, through counsel Jennifer Dockter, is on an "impermissible fishing expedition" seeking to rummage around in Torres' affairs in an effort to embarrass, disrupt, and annoy.

Torres

Deposition refers to the taking of tes-

See TORRES on Page 4

CHCC needs to strengthen financial reporting–OPA

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A report from the Office of the Public Auditor has detailed major financial challenges that the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. faces.

The OPA report covered the operations of the CHCC from Oct. 1, 2011, to Sept. 30, 2012, but was only released on Jan. 26, 2015.

According to the report, among the challenges are finances; planning and or development of a strategic plan; and management's inexperi-

See CHCC on Page 4

Sugie takes home human duck race trophy

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Takumi Sugie and Pacific Islands Club Saipan took home the grand prizes in Saturday's 7th Annual Duck Race.

» PIC's Manglona wins $2,500 in rubber duck race

Sugie bested 22 other swimmers to take home PIC's human duck race trophy for his sponsor, Saipan International School, and the grand prize of four corporate memberships to PIC for three months, while Kento Akimura and Kaito Yanai finished second and third, respectively.

See SUGIE on Page 4

JAYSON CAMACHO
The top 3 finishers for the human duck race Takumi Sugie, second from left, Kento Akimura, third from left, and Kaito Yanai, third from right, pose with Pacific Islands Club sports, entertainment, activities director Glenn Policare, leftmost, and PIC-S.E.A managers Keoni Ichihara, second from right, and Cindy Franz, far right, after PIC's 7th Annual Duck Race held Saturday evening at the Lazy River.

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The 11th San Vicente Walkathon meets its fundraising goal of $10,000.
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ASIA
President Aquino has accepted the resignation of police chief Gen. Alan Purisima.
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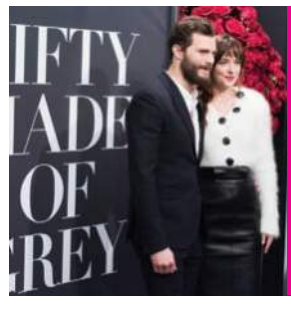

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The opening of the "Fifty Shades of Grey" movie is a breathless affair for fans.
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GOT A NEWS TIP?
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Romantic date night at PIC...
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Local

NMC seeks entry into Sea Grant program

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

National Sea Grant officials met with the Northern Marianas College for the first time late last week, as the CNMI's only college looks to enter the four-stage process in becoming a designated Sea Grant institution.

The officials visiting were Sea Grant advisory council chair Rolland Schmitten, Virginia Sea Grant director Troy Hartley, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration extension leader Michael Liffman, and NOAA Coral Reef Conservation program management liaison Paulo Maurin.

In the works right now is a concept paper, or project proposal, to enter the program. The University of Guam, now in stage two or in the "coherent area program" of the process, began with a project in extension and environmental literacy. The last stages move from "institutional program" to "Sea Grant College."

For NMC's part, their project will be led by the college's Cooperative Research Extension and Education services, among other officials.

"We will be submitting our project proposal. Step one is where we are going next," college president Sharon Hart said, with a focus on aquaculture.

"It was really important to have these folks out here so they can see and understand what we can bring to the table but also see our challenges and opportunities that lie ahead—I think there are terrific opportunities ahead that can really help the CNMI in the long run through Sea Grant," she said.

Hart believes it will be a "smooth move" and transition into the Sea Grant process because their extension program has been very involved in aquaculture in years past.

Right now, the focus is on rabbit fish production, according to NMC aquaculture specialist Michael Ogo who, along with another CREES official, participated in the four-year program review of UOG's Sea Grant program by the visiting officials last week.

From sitting in on this review, they learned the "the importance of listening to stakeholders and listening to the commu-

See NMC on Page 5

DENNIS B. CHAN
Northern Marianas College president Dr. Sharon Hart poses for a photo with visiting Sea Grant and other college officials after a meeting last week.

Tourism Topics

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

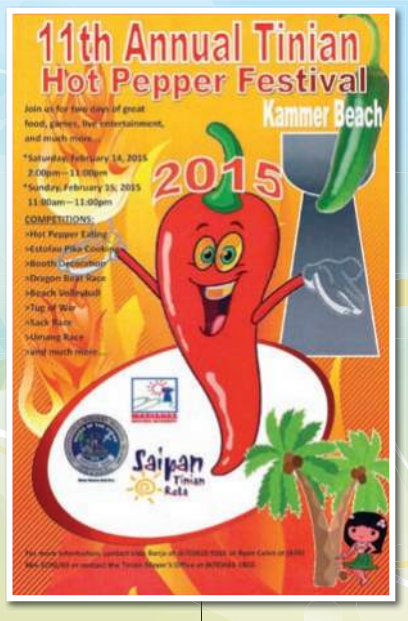
Tourism is everybody's business.

11th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival

Feb. 14-15, 2015

The 11th Tinian Hot Pepper Festival will be held on Feb. 14-15, 2015, highlighting the island's famously potent "donne sali" pepper. The Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) has chartered a ferry to run between Saipan and Tinian on Feb. 13-15, 2015.

For $35/round trip, space is still available on the Super Emerald departing Tinian on Feb. 13 at 8:30 p.m., departing Saipan on Feb. 14 at 10 a.m., departing Tinian on Feb. 14 at 6:30 p.m., and departing Saipan on Feb. 15 at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Additional departure times have already been fully booked. For more information regarding reservations, contact Ryan Calvo at 1.670.664.3200 or email at rcalvo@mymarianas.com. Payment may be made at the MVA office on Beach Rd. in San Jose or in Tinian.



The Tinian Hot Pepper Festival will be held at Kammer Beach within walking distance of the seaport and downtown San Jose. Available hotels on island include Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino, Fleming Hotel, Lion House, Lorilyn's and Street Motel. Some hotels offer airport shuttle, as well. Air service is provided by Freedom Air and Star Marianas.

The event is also co-sponsored by Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. Activities will again include cooking competitions, indigenous craft sales, and live entertainment including cultural dances, and Hapi the clown. Sample a variety of local dishes, catch the *umang* (hermit crab) races, join numerous sports activities (including beach volleyball and dragon boat races), or join the *donni sali* eating competition itself. Festival times will be from 2-11 p.m. on Feb. 14 and from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Feb. 15.

The 15th Annual Tinian Turquoise Blue Triathlon will be held on Feb. 16 at 7:30 a.m., offering a 1.5K swim, 40K swim, and 10K run. The reef swim consists of three courses: 1.5K, 3K, and 4.5K. Applications are available under the Events Calendar at www.mymarianas.com.

Tinian is also accessible within minutes of Saipan via airplane or via connecting flights from Rota and Guam. For more information, contact the MVA Tinian office at 1.670.433.9365 or e-mail at vborja@mymarianas.com.

Saipan Tinian Rota

HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

Unexploded ordnance found off Managaha coast

An unexploded ordnance was found off the coast of Managaha Island, the Department of Public Safety disclosed Saturday afternoon.

Managaha security employees were advised to keep tourists away from the area of the ordnance, which was located approximately 12 feet under the surface of the water.

DPS spokesman Travis Hurst said Boating Safety Section officers relayed a picture, along with the location, to the DPS Hazardous Explosives Response Team.

Hurst said the DPS Hazardous Explosives Team is in the process of formulating a plan to retrieve and dispose of the ordnance.

He said if the DPS Hazardous Explosives Team deems it is beyond their scope, then the U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit out of Guam will be summoned to assist DPS in the removal efforts.

The report did not mention what type of ordnance was found and who spotted it. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NMHC board still discussing RFP on Garapan Annex

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. is still in discussion on the request for proposal for the Garapan Annex, according to NMHC board member Diego Songao.

In an interview last Friday before the start of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board meeting, Songao told *Saipan Tribune* that talks about the Garapan Annex is ongoing and that no further information could be released until a decision is made. Songao is also a CUC board member.

During last Wednesday's meeting, the board moved to discuss the RFP finalization in an executive session—a private meeting—as requested by NMHC board member from Tinian, Ignacio Kiyoshi Jr.

In an earlier interview, NMHC deputy corporate director Jeannie Mafnas said NMHC was still in the process of finalizing the RFP.

It has almost been three years since the decision to establish the Garapan Annex was first tabled.

NMHC owns the 40,000 square-meter lot across the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and Garapan Elementary School and it contains 45 units that have not been used for years. Several investors have expressed interest in developing the property.

Back then, Mariana Islands Housing Authority allowed NMHC to lease the area for commercial development. The RFP for the Garapan Annex was first issued in December 2012 but this was later cancelled due to unspecified legal issues.

In related news, NMHC has also moved the deadline to submit project proposals for its Community Development Block Grant program funds to April 6. March 23 was the initial deadline. A total of over $700,000 is available for project proposals while over $100,000 will remain with NMHC to fund its administrative costs.

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SVES Canary walkathon the biggest ever

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 11th annual San Vicente Walkathon was a definite success, drawing a crowd of students, parents, and community partners to meet their fundraising goal of $10,000 last Saturday morning.

As much as 20 private and public groups held exhibits on health and hygiene, environmental awareness, and fitness, among others.

Saipan Music and Dance school, and performers from Marianas High School, the Northern Marianas College, and SVES, were the entertainment that day.

According to Parent Teacher Association president Wayne Pangelinan, the walkathon's goal was to raise sufficient funds for improvements to the elementary school, and to support teachers and students in their programs,

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

San Vicente Elementary School students take part in the Canary Walkathon last Saturday morning.

They were near or had exceeded their goal of $10,000, Pangelinan said near the end of the event at 12pm. This was also the biggest walkathon they've ever held, he added.

"We're very elated. We're stoked to see how this turned out," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "We started meeting in December and the vision we all shared was to make this bigger, better, and greater than the many years it had been in existence."

He said they went out of the way to invite more agencies but it also came down to the time and activity parent volunteers put in to meet their goals.

"We didn't just focus on the San Vicente community. We went islandwide," he said.

Pledges from students, raffle sales through solicitations, and food vendors who gave 20 percent of their total gross were the areas of fundraising. The main bulk of fundraising came from pledges, according to Pangelinan.

San Vicente vice principal Ana Marie Guerrero said the class who raised the most money through pledges would get a pizza party. And classes who ran the most laps would get a prize as well, she said.

"The kids don't seem to want to go home," said Guerrero, remarking on the crowd still at the San Vicente baseball field near the event's end at 12pm.

"The weather's perfect. It hasn't poured down, it's nice and cool—it's great day to be out here," added Pangelinan.

The PTA president thanked everyone who came to support the walkathon, including Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, members of the Legislature, and their partners from the business community.

"Without their support it wouldn't be as successful as we thought it would be," he said.

SUGIE

From Page 1

"I am very happy and thankful to SIS and our teachers and principals for giving me a chance to join in the race," Sugie said.

SIS headmaster Tim S. Bray said SIS sponsored Sugie and Victoria Chentsova for the duck race this year as the school supports the causes that PIC fundraises for.

"We entered because it is a really good cause for cancer and I have a lot of cancer survivors in my family and so it seems like a nice way for us to help the community and I am very proud and hopefully next year we will keep the trophy again," Bray said.

PIC sports, entertainment and activities director Glenn Policare said a total of 24 teams signed up for the human duck race but only 23 showed up.

Aside from SIS, the other sponsors that fielded teams for the human duck race were DFS/T Galleria with seven swimmers, Saipan Swim Club with four swimmers, Trench Tech, FISG, and PIC Saipan SEA Department, which registered two swimmers each; and Island Apparel, KKMP, American Red Cross, Saipan Ice & Water, and Calvo's Insurance, with one swimmer each.

For the rubber duck race, all 2,500 ducks were sold. According to Policare, PIC Magellan waitress Dana Manglona won the $2,500 grand prize with her winning duck number 142.

Policare noted that Manglona bought two ducks out of the 2,500 that were sold and that she will be happy with the news when she receives her prize today, Monday.

Other winners include Mildred Camacho in second place with duck No. 77; Richil Pizarro in third place with duck No. 1,862; and Frank Seo in fourth place with duck No. 1,944.

"Everyone just came out today and PIC is glad for the overwhelming support from the community and I love the fact that we had a couple of hundred people showing up," Policare said.

Policare said they raised over $8,000 from the event. Proceeds will be donated to the Commonwealth Cancer Association. PIC has raised more than $30,000 over the past six years for its annual Duck Race to help fight cancer in the CNMI.

CHCC

From Page 1

ence in dealing with the magnitude of financial shortfalls and problems resulting from a lack of planning.

The lack of transition planning coupled with financial difficulties of the CNMI government created a challenge for CHCC, the report said.

The report cited the lack of articles of incorporation or bylaws for the operation of the board, no application for the designation of CHCC as a provider of healthcare services for Medicare and Medicaid, no financial assessments or plans, no statement of beginning balances for cash, payables and receivables, no financial accounting system, no procurement regulation and personnel policy and no standard operating procedure in the clinical and administrative areas, the OPA said.

An accompanying Auditor's Report also identified certain deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting in the CHCC that are considered to be material weaknesses.

A deficiency in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis, the report said.

A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected on time.

The Auditor's Report, however, said it does "not express an opinion on the effectiveness of CHCC's internal control over financial reporting."

The report said the CHCC does not maintain a separate general ledger system and that general ledger for CHCC transactions is maintained by the CNMI Department of Finance but is not reconciled or monitored by DOF or CHCC.

As of Sept. 30, 2012, fixed asset transfers to CHCC have not been recorded by CHCC or DOF as a transfer document has not been prepared, and transfers of receivables, inventory and obligations have not been documented by CHCC and DOF officials.

The report said CHCC was appropriated $5 million from the general fund for fiscal year 2012, but only recorded $4,723,468 of this funding. Journal vouchers posted to the DOF general ledger are not approved by CHCC management and CHCC could not produce the journal vouchers for testing, the report said.

The report also noted irregularities in payroll and personnel expense. Some time cards and personnel expense were not signed as approved by human resources staff, the report said.

For all 75 employees tested, variances existed between the payroll report and the general ledger posting report. The variances could not be explained by management, the report said.

The report further recommended that the CHCC "strengthen controls" over documentation of personnel expenses.

Aside from personnel expenses, the Auditor's Report also said the CHCC should strengthen its controls over the processing, recording, and monitoring of disbursements.

The report cited that the CHCC needs to comply with procurement regulations, noting that some of the items procured did not undergo competitive bidding. Some of the items were also not signed by the contractor. Some of the professional services also do not have the approved contracts.

The CHCC in response to the Auditor's Report, said it is still addressing the concerns raised. The CHCC's responses were included in the report.

Operating loss

The corporation has total assets of $16.64 million and total liabilities of $16.44 million in fiscal year 2012, a report from the Office of the Public Auditor said.

The financial audit report, released Jan. 26, 2015, also said that CHCC's operating revenues and expenses amounted to $29.65 million and $34.07 million respectively, with an operating loss of $4.42 million in fiscal year 2012.

The OPA report covered the operations of the CHCC from Oct. 1, 2011, to Sept. 30, 2012. The CHCC's initial funding or seed fund for fiscal year 2012 was $5 million, with a net appropriation of $4.72 million.

In its analysis, the OPA report said to the end of the fiscal year, CHCC had total assets of $16.64 million from its cash, general receivables, net of allowances and doubtful accounts, and inventories of medical and pharmaceutical supplies.

The report said CCHC has no recorded capital assets. Current liabilities arise from obligations to CHCC's suppliers and vendors for operations, retirement contributions and taxes, the OPA report said.

TORRES

From Page 1

timony of a witness outside of court.

A discovery dispute has arisen in the case after Lochabay advised Torres not to answer some of Dockter's questions regarding some lawmakers' Hong Kong trip in 2013 and 2014.

The court will hear Torres' motion on Thursday, Feb. 12, at 1:30pm. Hunter has yet to submit a reply to the motion as of press time.

Lochabay said Hunter, through Dockter, clearly seeks to sensationalize his case with unnecessary tales of "junkets" in an effort to annoy and embarrass Torres and others.

Lochabay said Dockter spent the vast majority of the two-hour deposition inquiring into, among other things, matters of legislative process, propriety of passing bills without first sending them to committee, participation in drafting bills, and fact-finding trips abroad.

"None of these lines of questioning even remotely relate to whether or not the Senate President (now lieutenant governor) knew that attendance at one or more of the four aggrieved Senate sessions was in violation of the Open Government Act," he said.

Lochabay asserted that Dockter has not and logically cannot proffer any connection between a fact-finding mission relating to the casino industry and a basic understanding of the Commonwealth's law on open meetings.

Lochabay said maybe if the alleged purpose of the trip was training on "sunshine laws" in general, or on the Open Government Act specifically, Dockter could possibly make the necessary connection.

"But that is not the set of facts we are given," he pointed out.

Lochabay said neither Torres' understanding of how bills are sent to committee, nor his alleged participation in the drafting of a House bill are relevant to Hunter's claims, as drafting of proposed legislation and sending bills to committee are not affected by the Open Government Act.

Lochabay said Dockter's lines of questioning represent nothing more than a bad faith fishing expedition, and are outside of the permissive scope of discovery.

He said most of Hunter's deposition questions relate to similar issues not reasonably calculated to lead to discovery of admissible evidence.

Lochabay said Torres should not have to suffer a bad faith fishing expedition into unrelated matters when he should instead be conducting the government's business.

Lochabay asked the court to prohibit Hunter from engaging in these abusive discovery practices as he, through counsel, is clearly asking question that will not lead to the discovery of admissible evidence relating to his Open Government Act claims.

"A protective order is clearly appropriate in this case to prevent this type of abuse and harassment," he pointed out.

Lochabay said the court should limit the deposition of Torres to questions relating to his attendance at the relevant Senate sessions (not in dispute), and whether or not he had knowledge regarding necessary notice as required by the Open Government Act.

Lochabay noted that Torres testified repeatedly that he sought and relied on the advice of legislative counsel as to the 72-hour notice requirement, not only in this case but in all matters that came before the Senate.

Lochabay said Hunter clearly believes something untoward must have occurred leading up to the passage of the bills collectively making up the Casino Act.

"However, he has no evidence of such, and has made no such allegations in the present lawsuit," he noted.

Hunter is suing the government, Gov. Eloy Inos, Torres, House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), and two other lawmakers.

Hunter has asked the court to issue a declaratory judgment, explicitly stating that the Open Government Act does, in fact, apply to the Legislature, and that the lawmakers named in the lawsuit are properly before the court for violating their public notice provisions.

DOJ yet to approve settlement deal with Tinian Dynasty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Justice has yet to issue a final decision regarding the settlement deal between the U.S. Attorney's Office and the owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino. The two have agreed in principle to dismiss the criminal case against Tinian Dynasty in exchange for the forfeiture of $3.02 million, plus other terms and conditions.

At a status conference on Friday, assistant U.S. attorney Marivic David informed the federal court that the U.S. government had informed Tinian Dynasty's lawyer that there has been no final decision yet from Main Justice in Washington, D.C. about the approval of the settlement deal.

David also apprised the court that the parties have reached an agreement as to the length of the continuance of trial.

Attorney Bruce Berline, counsel for Tinian Dynasty's owner, Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd., stated that the parties have agreed to continue the trial date for another month and a half.

The trial was scheduled to start today, Monday.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona approved the request and move the trial to April 7, 2015. She set a status conference on March 10, 2015.

The judge advised the U.S. government to continue to communicate with Tinian Dynasty's counsel regarding the pending decision from Main Justice.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton, counsel for the U.S. government, informed the court last Jan. 30 that although they have agreed in principle to the settlement, they are awaiting the U.S. Department of Justice's final approval of the civil forfeiture amount.

The parties have agreed to dismiss the criminal case against Hong Kong Entertainment without prejudice in consideration for the $3-million civil forfeiture, along with other terms and conditions.

The U.S. government filed in November last year 158 criminal charges against Hong Kong Entertainment: one count of conspiracy to cause a financial institution to fail to file a currency transaction report or CTR, 155 counts of failure to file a CTR, one count of failure to file a suspicious activity report, and one count of failure to maintain an effective anti-money laundering program. The indictment has also a notice of forfeiture.

Manglona orders dental clinic, owners to pay $130K to dentist

The federal court has ordered Dental Care and its owners to pay $130,000 in damages that a jury awarded to their former dentist, Dr. Masha Maxim, who filed a lawsuit over her termination.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona, however, also ordered Maxim to pay one of the clinic's owners, Scott Thompson, $62,000 that the same jury found her liable for slapping him.

As the parties agreed, Manglona said the $130,000 should be offset by the $62,000 judgment.

Manglona said the remaining balance on the judgment in favor of Dr. Maxim, with interest as of Oct. 23, 2014, should be $68,239.22.

The judge ordered Dental Care, Thompson, and Rod Stewart to pay the amount in four equal payments, through Maxim's counsel Steven Nutting's client trust account.

The defendants agreed to pay Dr. Maxim $17,059.80 on Feb. 13, Aug. 14, and Nov. 15 in 2014; and on Feb. 12, 2016.

The trial was held in August 2011. Both parties expressed satisfaction with the verdict. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

NMC

From Page 2

nity in coming up with an idea" to get a better understanding of what it takes to become a Sea Grant institution.

"We are really pleased that they came out here. Our dynamics are a little bit different than some of the states. We are appreciate that they took the time to come out here and appreciate of the environment we are working in, and the context and challenges we are facing here as small Pacific islands," added acting dean of CREES Patricia Coleman.

Schmitten said they met with NMC to see the island and discuss opportunities for a Sea Grant status.

"One of the things we are exploring are the needs of Saipan, and what NMC is doing to address those issues from the standpoint of coastal and marine type resources," Schmitten said. "We've been talking primarily about aquaculture related issues."

He said the Sea Grant programs are based on "local needs."

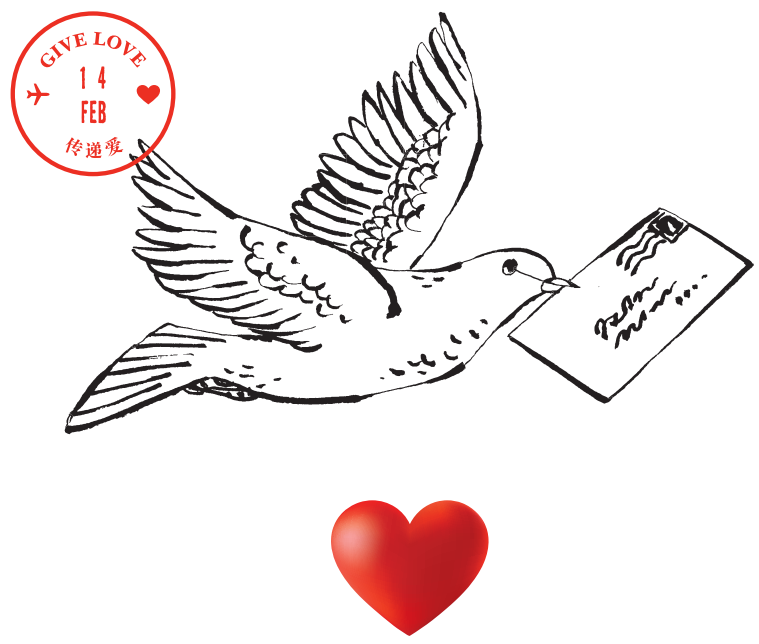
"Some of things we are interested in is the effect of climate change and how communities can adapt to those impending changes, whether it's impending changes to fisheries, impending changes to coastal resource communities that might be vulnerable," he said.

He also pointed to environmental literacy. "It's really sad how very little people know about their coastal and marine environment."

According to Hartley, the "sea grant approach and role" uses the application of science to solve real world problems. "How you move the best science we have out into the field, into somebody's hands who's going to make a decision—and is going to make a better decision—because they have that science," he said.

Maurin also pointed to the "strategic importance of where" the CNMI and Guam sits in the Micronesia region. "It has the potential to become the hub of a lot of the U.S. activities in the region. There is in some ways a competitive environmental advantage—if you look at the marine environment here, it is in some ways very different from the ones in other parts of Hawaii or American Samoa. Some of the social issues are similar but are still different."

"It gives the opportunity to study and address challenges that are very unique in the region and study factors and environments that are not found anywhere else," he said.



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2 tour firms found liable to pay $2.3M for tourist's death

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Superior Court jury has found two tour companies liable to pay a $2.3 million in damages to the mother and estate of a Korean tourist who drowned while cliff fishing at Dump Coke on Tinian in December 2008.

During a trial on Tinian that began last Jan. 20, the jurors reached a unanimous verdict on Wednesday, finding Mode Tour Network Inc. and Mode Tour Saipan Corp. negligent, resulting in the accidental death of Hoseung Jung.

The jurors attributed 90 percent of fault to Mode Tour Network Inc. and 10 percent fault to Mode Tour Saipan Corp.

The jurors awarded $500,000 to Jung's mother, Jung Su An, for mental pain and suffering. They awarded $1.8 million to the estate of the decedent, Hoseung Jung, for pecuniary injury.

Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio presided over the trial. Attorney Colin Thompson served as counsel for widow Eun Ju Jun, mother Jung Su An, and brother Ho Chan Jung, who served as personal representative of the decedent.

The plaintiffs sued Mode Tour Network Inc., Mode Tour Saipan Corp., and Jae Min Corp.

Attorney Thomas Clifford served as counsel for Mode Tour Network Inc. and Mode Tour Saipan Corp.

Thompson stated in the complaint that Jun and her husband, Joung, had traveled to the CNMI in December 2008 for their honeymoon. In consultation with Mode Tour Network, the couple booked a cliff fishing tour when they visited Tinian.

Thompson said Mode Tour did not warn or disclose the potential dangers involved in the cliff fishing tour.

The tour guides took the couple and six other Korean tourists to a site popularly called Dump Coke, a fishing area located at a remote and rural part of Tinian.

After fishing until 6:30pm, the group sat down to a dinner prepared by the tour agents. The dinner was held within a short distance of the cliff line.

As part of the dinner, Thompson said, the agents served alcoholic beverages.

At 9pm, the agents packed up the fishing rods and clean up the area. One of the agents drove the four women in the group, including Jun, back to Tinian Dynasty.

The male tourists, including Joung, and a tour agent stayed behind to wait for another car. The agent later realized that Joung was missing.

Thompson said the agents searched and found Joung floating face down in the water below the cliff. Police later retrieved Joung's body and he was pronounced dead at the Tinian Health Center.

In Mode Tour Network's and Mode Tour Saipan's documents filed in court, Clifford said Mode Tour Network Inc. is merely a wholesaler of package tours in Korea, and that it's only nexus to the accident is that it sold a tour package that included a visit to Tinian.

Clifford said Mode Tour Network identified the optional Jae Min Corp.'s cliff fishing tour on its website. He said Mode Tour Network understood the optional tour had an excellent safety record.

Clifford said Mode Tour Network did not sell the optional tour to the couple and it would never have received any money from their decision on Tinian to participate in the optional outing.

The lawyer said Mode Tour Saipan Corp., in turn, had selected Jae Min Corp. as an optional tour, but it also understood it to have an excellent safety record.

Clifford said any danger involved in the tour was just as fully open and obvious to the couple as it was to anyone else.

He said it is undisputed that the deceased had actual knowledge of the location of the cliff line after sunset.

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With more than 20 proposed bills, lawmakers face busy days ahead

By JOEL D. PINAROC
joel_pinaroc@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lawmakers could be facing busy days ahead, considering the number of bills introduced during the second day of the First Regular Session of the 19th House of Representative on Friday.

More than 20 House bills, aside from a substantial number of House resolutions, are on the table for lawmakers to work on.

The introduction of the bills took well over an hour, House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) told the press after the session, which lasted more than two hours.

There were no deliberations on the bills.

Guerrero said he "was not surprised at all," because a lot the bills were rehashed from the last Legislature.

"All of the bills introduced today will be treated the same," Guerrero said.

One of the bills, House Bill 19-3, generated a lot of public comments from different agencies including the fire department, police department, and other agencies. Most of the comments generated support for H.B 19-3 and some called for its immediate approval.

H.B 19-3, introduced by vice speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan), seeks to enact a new base salary schedule for classified civil service government employees and to increase the salary ceiling for government employees.

Guerrero said the respective committees will now have to study the bills and consider public comments on these bills. "We will treat them like we normally do," he said.

For H.B 19-3, Guerrero said the public comments will be a part of the review of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Guerrero said he expects more comments on H.B 19-3 to come in. "There are still many considerations to be made," the lawmaker said, because government "haven't raised salaries."

For Rep. Glenn L. Maratita (R-Rota), the number of bills introduced in the session means lawmakers would need to "roll up their sleeves" and work.

Maratita, a first-time lawmaker, introduced House Local Bill 19-1, calling for the appropriation of $11 million in local license fees collected for poker and pachinko slot machines in the first senatorial district.

Maratita, who chairs the House Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations, said he has already called a meeting with members to discuss some of the bills falling under his committee.

One of the items of discussions, he said, will be to add $4 million to the proposed $11 million appropriation.

For Rep. Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan), his committee will continue to work on tourism. Guerrero, who chairs the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, said he will initiate meetings with the tourism board and discuss tourism-related concerns.

The lawmaker introduced H.B. 19-17 calling for a clearer definition for licensing of tour operators and tour guides by the Marianas Visitors Authority. He said he will also meet with his committee members to discuss this further.

Guam woman is charged with murder for infant son's death

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)— Murder charges have been filed against a Guam woman accused of abusing and neglecting her 2-month-old son who died in September.

Pacific Daily News reports Melenie Irene Margaret Villagomez Borja pleaded not guilty by reason of mental illness Wednesday at Guam Superior Court.

Borja faces charges of aggravated murder and first-degree murder, plus charges of manslaughter, child abuse and negligent homicide in connection with the Sept. 24 death of the infant, Joziyah Matthew Borja.

Borja also faces allegations of aggravated assault, as well as seven new counts of child abuse, with each charge referring to a different child at her home.

The medical examiner determined the infant died of neglect, was malnourished and hadn't received medical attention.

Borja faces life in prison if convicted of aggravated murder.

Approximately $80M in operating losses for CUC since 2006

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

A representative of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s rate consultant, economist.com, disclosed Friday that the utility agency incurred about $80 million in operating losses since 2006.

In a joint hearing of the 19th Legislature's Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication Committees, Dan V. Jackson said that CUC might have one year left if it continues to struggle financially and that the No. 1 reason for CUC's tenuous state is the non-payment of the government's past arrears.

Jackson disclosed that government receivables have been increasing since 2013. In October 2013, government arrears stood at $20.39 million. It rose in March 2014 to $26.16 million. It rose further to $27.06 million in October 2014, and, as of February this year, it is now at a whopping $28.74 million.

Government arrears equate to 61 percent of CUC's operating budget.

CUC executive director Alan Fletcher told the PUTC committee that if the government does not pay its bills on time, it negatively impacts CUC's entire operations.

Jackson echoed Fletcher's statement that nonpayment of government bills is "seriously hindering" CUC's ability to make payroll, pay for oil regularly, and for other operating expenses. It also delays capital improvement projects and seriously affects the "performance and reliability" of the entire utility system.

"Failure of the government to pay its utility bills was one of the principal factors in the U.S government's 2014 motion in U.S District Court, asking for the appointment of a receiver for CUC," Jackson said. "Without resolution of this issue, CUC faces potential insolvency within a year."

Jackson noted that if the government pays its bills, CUC would have sufficient cash to fund payroll and other expenses, be able to finance overdue capital repairs, and be able to build a financial reserve to deal with future crises.

However, payment of government past due accounts will not enable CUC to lower rates or solve all of CUC's financial challenges in the immediate future, but it would improve the reliability of the system as development occurs in the CNMI.

Other difficulties

According to Jackson, CUC's electric sales have declined by 50 percent in the last 10 years and an inflation of costs has accumulated beyond CUC's control.

Two examples are the Stipulated Orders 1 and 2 and prior capital projects that require CUC to spend millions of dollars in capital repairs.

"CUC serves an isolated island community requiring much higher reserve capacities, back up systems, and redundancies to protect against forced outages or down times, resulting in a higher cost of providing service," Jackson said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

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MVA to continue with rights to Saipanda mascot

The Marianas Visitors Authority board of directors voted for a licensing agreement to continue its rights to the Saipanda mascot, at their board meeting last Friday.

The mascot is popular among Japanese tourists, and is merchandized in places like T Galleria on Saipan.

MVA chair Marian Aldan Pierce, who is also DFS president, recused herself from the discussion.

Ahead of their decision, MVA looked into the "relevance of the Saipanda mascot" to offshore offices in Japan, Russia, Korea, and China.

Three options were presented: to continue with the mascot rights, retire, or sell these rights. It was asked whether the mascot took into consideration the diversity of Saipan, and if the mascot should be retired to develop another mascot from the input of source countries.

The mascot has "very little presence" in China, Korea, and Russia, it was learned. ***(Dennis B. Chan)***

Calling all poets: 4th Teen Poetry Slam on Feb. 24

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

As a part of Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence is hosting its 4th Annual Teen Poetry Slam on Feb. 24, 2015, from 5pm to 7pm at Naked Fish Bar and Grill.

According to coalition executive director Maisie Tenorio, teens ages 13 to 18 are invited to perform original poetry about teen dating violence or healthy relationships.

"The idea is to give teens a platform, an opportunity to be heard about what they see, think, and feel about relationships," she told *Saipan Tribune*. "Youth have so many important things to say; we just need to take a moment to really listen to them. The Teen Poetry Slam provides that moment for them and for us."

The Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence will also be offering a poetry slam workshop for interested poets on Thursday, Feb. 19, 2015, from 8am to 12pm at Naked Fish Bar and Grill.

Tenorio said the workshop will help poets hone their presentation skills. "We were so impressed by the poetry, we decided to change the format and remove the 'dance' portion of the event. This year, we will focus on the poetry and open up the event so that all are welcome. We invite the community to come out to cheer for the poets, while learning about teen dating violence."

Marianas High School student and poetry slam participant Justina Lee explained why she took part in the annual event. "I decided to join the Poetry Slam because I wanted to put my feelings toward a healthy teen relationship into a poem and let people be able to realize the emotions behind my poem. Other teens should join because it is a good opportunity to speak up for themselves and to represent teens with unhealthy relationships."

Poem submissions must not contain real names or profanity and should include the participant's full name, age, name of school, and contact number. Student poets can submit their poems by sending it to info@endviolencenmi.org by 5pm on Tuesday, Feb. 17, 2015, for review.

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Grace Christian celebrates 30 years with youth concert

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Grace Christian Ministries celebrated its 30th anniversary last Monday at American Memorial Park with a youth concert themed: "Rejoicing in God's Greatness."

The ministries' youth group, Youth On the Rock, held its first concern in commemoration of the anniversary celebration.

GCA Navy Hill, GCA San Antonio, GCA Kagman, Life In The Son Fellowship, Korean Presbyterian Church, Palau Evangelical Church, and Holy Gospel Church participated in last week's celebration.

"It was just a night of celebration and worship to God for His faithfulness and goodness within Grace Christian Ministries. It was veered toward the youth to come out and just have a night of worship and thanksgiving," said Grace Christian pastor Fred Fatialofa. "I wanted to bring together other youth groups from various churches to be part of this historic occasion. We have a few churches decline because of conflicts in schedule with their church programs."

The two-hour event featured performances from church groups, worship songs, human videos, and creative dancing.

The pastor said the celebration's primary purpose was to acknowledge God "for he is the reason why Grace Christian Ministries have made it this far."

Fatialofa expressed his gratitude to Senior Pastor Rev. Raymond Kinsella for influencing the youth's vision with the Gospel and the Grace Christian Ministries for their support and prayers.

THOMAS MANGLONA II
Members of the Grace Christian Ministries pose for a photo after their 30th anniversary celebration at American Memorial Park last Monday.

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EDITORIAL

The weight of expectation, and the wait for a new Harper Lee novel

One day in about 2005, novelist Harper Lee was having breakfast at a diner near her Alabama home when a fan, apologizing for the intrusion, approached to express admiration for Lee's sole work, "To Kill a Mockingbird."

The two chatted, Lee was gracious, the thrilled reader departed. Then Lee, who fiercely protects her privacy, reflected on the encounter.

"I hope I didn't disappoint her," she said.

A beloved author revealing her insecurity and perfectionism? Lee, a master of dialogue and detail, would have recognized the poignancy immediately if she had observed it.

Writer Marja Mills was at that breakfast and tells us Lee's reaction helps explain why the author never published again. "That's the weight of expectation," says Mills, who befriended Harper Lee and her sister, Alice Lee, and wrote of the experience in a memoir, "The Mockingbird Next Door."

Mills was as surprised as anyone by this week's news that Harper Lee wrote another novel, which will be published this summer.

More than a decade ago Alice Lee specifically told Mills, then a Chicago Tribune reporter, there was no second book because her sister said what she intended to say in "Mockingbird." And who could blame her? Imagine sitting down as a neophyte to write the Great American Novel and then pulling it off! What do you do for an encore?

"To Kill a Mockingbird" is a marvel of storytelling, a perfect rendering of small town life in the segregated Deep South. The book tells in flashback the adventures of a young scamp, Scout, and how her father, principled attorney Atticus Finch, comes to represent a black farmhand accused of rape. With its big themes and little moments, "Mockingbird" won the 1961 Pulitzer Prize.

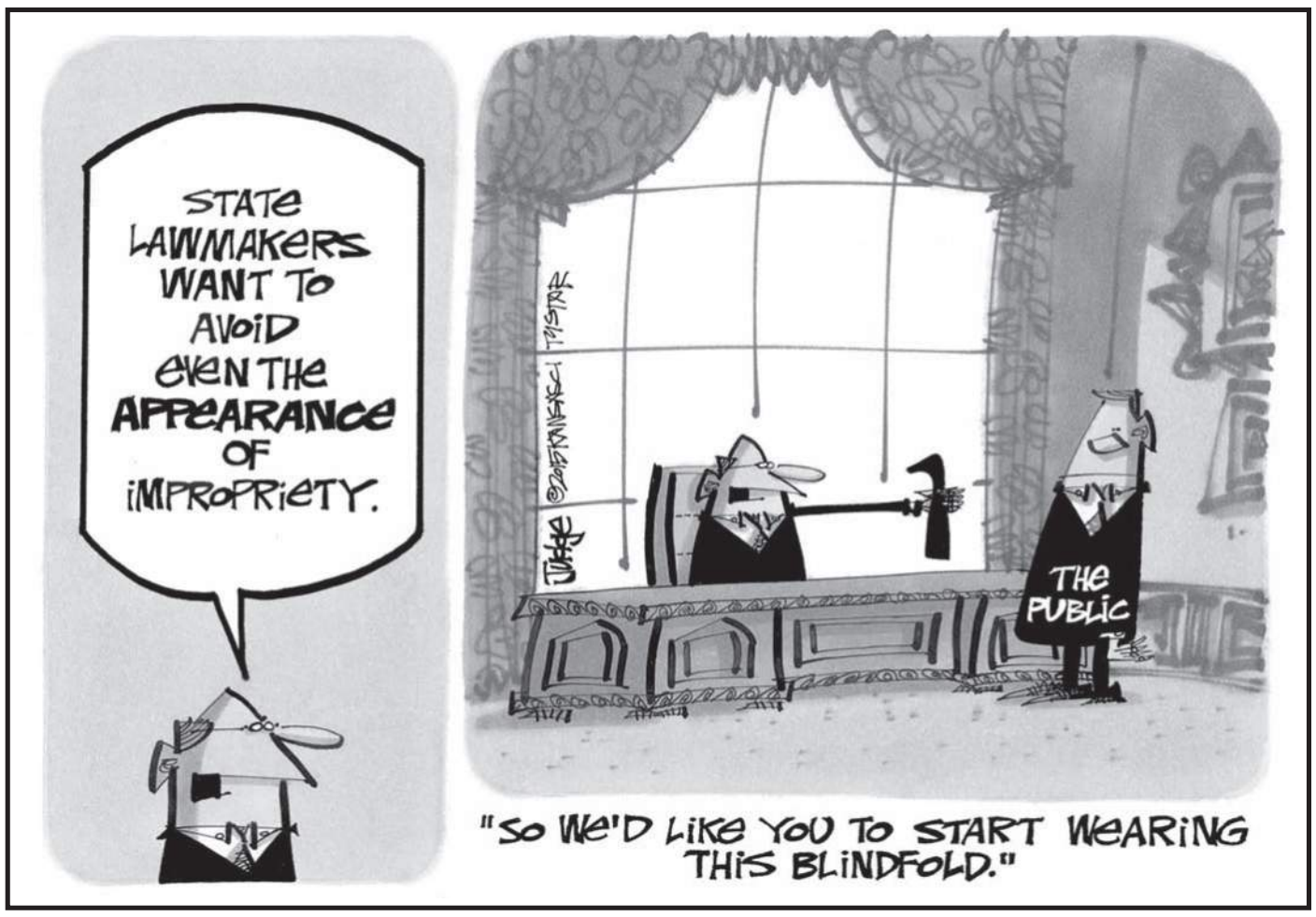
And then?

There are many great literary traditions in America, and one is the disappearing act, as practiced by Salinger and Pynchon. Lee's version has its peculiarities: She was never a recluse, just private. She stopped giving interviews and split time between a New York apartment and a modest house she shared with her sister in their hometown of Monroeville, Ala.

Harper Lee, 88, suffered a stroke in 2007; her sister died last year at 103. Now Lee's second book has been found. She says in a statement that she's pleased it was unearthed and is considered "worthy of publication." The publisher says he never spoke directly with Harper Lee, but communicated via an attorney.

The new book, "Go Set a Watchman," is a sequel of sorts, connected umbilically to "Mockingbird." It also takes place in tiny fictional Maycomb, Ala., in the 1950s, featuring many of the same characters. Scout is an adult, her father is elderly. "Watchman," though, actually was written first. But Lee's editor persuaded her the flashback scenes in "Watchman" were the most compelling element so she started over, writing "Mock-

See HARPER LEE on Next Page


STATE LAWMAKERS WANT TO AVOID EVEN THE APPEARANCE OF IMPROPRIETY.
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On vaccines, the village trumps a few misguided parents

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS
Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. *Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.*

When Hillary Clinton repeated the old adage that it takes a village to raise a child, a lot of people criticized her for promoting a vaguely socialist philosophy. Many were disturbed by the idea that children could be viewed as communal property and blamed Clinton for undermining the rights of parents to raise their own progeny as they—and not the village elders—saw fit.

At the time, I found the whole controversy a bit comical. Having spent a good part of my own childhood with my maternal grandparents, I was used to being thwacked on the rear by Mike and Mamie's Italian neighbors when I got mouthy, or being escorted back to their front door and ratted out by the nosy Spillane sisters.

At no time did I rail against this Orwellian West Philly surveillance system. The village owned me as much as my family of origin, and cared as much too.

That's why I've always had a problem with parents who demand unilateral control over their precious offspring, as if they were Ming vases picked up at Christie's. While I completely support a mother's right to raise her daughter in the religion of her choosing or a father's right to monitor the things his son watches on television or is taught in school, I think society has a legitimate interest in and obligation to the welfare of those children.

Fortunately, the laws generally agree. While an adult Jehovah's Witness can refuse a blood transfusion for religious reasons, he can still be forced to have his ailing child taken to a hospital and given life-saving treatments that would otherwise violate his conscience. More importantly, parents who think that prayer is enough to rescue their baby from a premature and completely preventable death can be prosecuted for child endangerment and, if the child dies, negligent homicide. Society has balanced the rights of parents against the rights of their little ones and decided that some things transcend custodial rights.

This is not some communist plot to deprive Americans of their parental authority. It is not an illegal incursion on our ability to raise children with our values and according to our preferences. It is simply a recognition that children are not always fortunate in the genetic lottery and are sometimes saddled with loving, albeit dangerously uninformed parents.

We've seen this over the past few years with the whole "vaccine" controversy. As someone who was the beneficiary of Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin, the competing scientific legends whose heroism saved my generation and succeeding generations from the horrors of the iron lung and walking braces, it is inconceivable that any parent would refuse to have their child vaccinated against childhood disease because some loopy blonde celebrity like Jennie McCarthy blames her son's autism on an injection.

The scientific evidence that vaccines cause autism, or that they are any more dangerous than the actual diseases they seek to prevent is almost non-existent. Andrew Wakefield, the so-called authority whose work was cited as proof that vaccines caused autism (and other disorders) was unmasked as a fraud who manipulated data for economic gain, and his work is completely discredited.

And yet, despite all reasonable indicia, some people persist in believing that vaccines are dangerous. I think this has more to do with a vague sense that we need to have complete autonomy over our lives, lives over which the government should have the least amount of control possible. It derives from an almost pathologic fear of being told what to do and when to do it, and has no actual political flavor.

Of course, there are always going to be those who can't resist the opportunity to take partisan shots. Because of some rather ill-informed comments by prominent Republicans like Chris Christie and Rand Paul, this has now become the "aren't conservatives idiots?" moment. Clearly, Christie made a giant faux pas when he even suggested that parents could have legitimate opposition to having their children vaccinated.

They can't. Period.

Paul went even further with some bizarre rant about how vaccines have been implicated in children developing mental disabilities, although both men walked back from their histrionics when it became clear that the rest of the world was questioning their sanity. Neither wanted to enter Michelle Bachman land, a place where random people tell you that their daughter suffered mental retardation after she was given a vaccine against sexually transmitted disease.

But just because some conservatives make some stupid and unscientific comments, this does not mean that all conservatives should bear the mark of (Herman) Cain. One of the most prominent conservatives, a man whose medical credentials are unassailable has stated unequivocally that children must be vaccinated. Ben Carson, a world-renowned pediatric neurosurgeon told NPR that "When you have diseases that have demonstrably been shown to be curtailed or eradicated by immunization, why would you even think about not doing it?"

Why indeed. The health of a child is non-negotiable. If a parent's wishes can be accommodated in pursuit of that goal, fine. But if a parent's desire to raise that child comes in direct conflict with indisputable science and puts other, particularly vulnerable children at risk, the village needs to take over.

Because child abusers, even misguided loving ones, need to be stopped.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Green legacy

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Haidee V. Eugenio covered politics, mmigration, environment, business and other news beats as a reporter for Saipan Tribune *and other news media in the CNMI for 16 years. She holds a journalism degree from the University of the Philippines-Diliman and is a recipient of professional awards and commendations, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's environmental achievement award for her environmental reporting.*

This month marks the 12th year since the Babauta-Benavente administration chained shut the gates of Puerto Rico dump and opened the Marpi landfill, marking what they described as "a new era of respect for our natural environment."

A transfer station in Lower Base also opened after that, but the momentum has since slowed down to fully close the open dump in compliance with federal regulations. Tackling the dump's closure and turning it into a public park overlooking the waters barely made it to campaign promises and political platforms.

This year also marks the 21st year since the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued a 1994 compliance order to the CNMI government with regard to the dump's closure.

Although Puerto Rico dump stopped accepting trash in 2003, the mountain of trash continues to threaten the surrounding ocean ecosystem because it has not been properly capped and pipes have not been installed for monitoring purposes, among other things, as required by federal rules.

Almost year after year, capital improvement project funding meant for Marpi landfill's final closure had been "redirected" to pay for other CNMI projects with the promise of restoring those funds for the dump closure the following year.

For years, Puerto Rico dump was considered one of the most unsightly areas on Saipan. It's a health and safety hazard to anyone in the vicinity, and frequent fires pollute the nearby tourist beaches.

Task forces were formed, closure and re-use plans were mulled, but to no avail. Adding to the delays were bidders' procurement protests, appeals and bid cancellations for at least 12 years since no additional trash was supposed to be accepted at the dump.

The road to final dump closure is long and winding so it's a breath of fresh air to learn that the Inos-Torres administration is pledging to make this specific project among its priorities at a time when Saipan is preparing for the development of a $7.1-billion integrated casino resort, among other things.

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in his Jan. 12 inaugural address, said his administration is poised to sign a $15 million to $23 million construction contract for the closure of Puerto Rico dump, a project that he said "has been through four administrations." The administration should not lose that focus, and should follow through on that specific task.

As the administration's own Committee on Transition puts it, development must incorporate "economic progress, social progress, and environmental protection." It recommends that the CNMI leadership commit to these principles and vigorously adopt them as the development framework for the Commonwealth.

About seven years ago, the project was estimated to cost $7 million to $10 million. The longer the CNMI waits, the costlier the project becomes.

But as with any multi-million government projects, it won't be surprising if the procurement process for Puerto Rico dump's final closure gets caught up—once again—in a series of procurement protests, appeals, and lawsuits. And before you know it, another administration takes over. And funding for the final dump closure gets used for other purposes again.

No Child Left Behind test requirements deserve support from both parties

By JON COWAN and LANAE ERICKSON HATALSKY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Nobody likes tests. Not third-graders and, apparently, not Congress.

The 114th Congress is moving quickly to overhaul the Elementary and Secondary Education Act—better known since 2001 as No Child Left Behind—the law that governs nearly all federal policy around K-12 schools. Loud voices on both sides of the aisle already have called for gutting its testing and accountability measures and for giving states federal education dollars with no strings attached.

These are bad ideas no matter where you fall on the political spectrum.

Republicans see themselves as defenders of our tax dollars. Yet many Republicans are now saying we should ditch the Bush-era accountability framework, including annual reading and math tests, and instead hand out $25 billion each year for states to do as they please. Under the draft bill proposed by Senate Republicans, the federal government would have no real say in how its money is used, nor would states need to provide evidence that they're funding something that works. Rather, a state must simply give an "assurance" that it is trying to improve its worst-performing schools in some way. This is a perplexing stance from the party that treasures fiscal responsibility: Let's do away with goals, the ability to measure how we're doing and all mechanisms for forcing changes if we're failing.

The stance of anti-testing-and-accountability Democrats is even more puzzling. After decades of stagnant school test scores and yawning achievement gaps, No Child Left Behind spurred tremendous academic gains, especially among low-income and minority kids. Just a few of the many examples: According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, the largest ongoing nationwide assessment, 57 percent of low-income students were "below basic" level in fourth-grade math the year before No Child Left Behind was enacted. Today that rate is 27 percent. For African-American students, the rate went from 65 percent to 34 percent. For Latinos, it went from 59 percent to 27 percent. Today, the average 9-year-old African-American student scores at the math level an African-American 13-year-old did in 1973. The same is true for Latino students. Students with disabilities are making educational progress as well—and for the first time, those gains are being tracked systematically.

How can Democrats, who built two winning presidential coalitions by arguing they are the only ones who will stand up for African-Americans and Latinos, be willing to throw out the policies that incited such progress?

Of course there are things not to like about No Child Left Behind, and pieces of it could use tweaks and improvement. And some thoughtful lawmakers are already suggesting ways to directly address those concerns, like asking states and districts to review the tests their students are taking and toss out those that are duplicative or low quality. But after watching American students fall behind our global competitors, we now see an upward trajectory. The average 9-year-old American student's scores are going up in reading seven times faster than they ever did in the 30 years before No Child Left Behind. In math, the scores are going up five times faster.

And yet the gravitational pull of anti-testing-and-accountability forces is so strong that it's causing many in Congress to become "repeal-and-replacers," even if that means jettisoning deep values cherished by their own party. This is the legislative equivalent of repealing the entire Affordable Care Act because of opposition to its medical-device tax.

We cannot let test-phobia undercut the significant progress the United States has made toward giving all children an education that prepares them to succeed. Tossing out the tests and the accountability ushered in by No Child Left Behind might be politically convenient, but it would be a step backward.

Jon Cowan is president of the centrist think tank Third Way. Lanae Erickson Hatalsky is director of Third Way's Social Policy & Politics Program. They wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

5 things to know about mortgage refinancing

By TERRY SAVAGE
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Your home is likely the largest investment you will make in your lifetime, and the interest you pay on your home mortgage over the years could more than double the purchase price. Yet a new study by Bankrate.com reveals that just over one-third of borrowers aren't sure what interest rate they are paying on their loan.

What you don't know could be costing you a lot of money. Current mortgage rates now near their historic lows. Bankrate's survey finds average 30-year fixed rate is at 3.80 percent. They note that if you refinance a $200,000 loan from 6 percent down to 3.8 percent, you would save $267 per month in mortgage payments!

So here are five important things to know about refinancing your mortgage:

1. Figure out whether a refinance is worth doing. It pays to refi if you can get a rate that is as little as 0.5 percent to 1.0 percentage point lower than your current rate, depending on the size of your mortgage balance.

2. Consider all costs and fees. The costs and fees for refinancing may be paid by your mortgage banker, but a "no-fee refi" means you'll pay a slightly higher interest rate. Alternatively, the costs can be rolled into the loan balance, or you can pay them separately. One tip: If you pay fees separately, it should not take more than 12 months to make your costs back through a lower monthly payment.

3. Start by knowing the facts of your current mortgage. Look at your current mortgage statement. It will show you your current rate, your current payment, and your current loan balance. That's what a lender needs to give you a quote. Start by asking your current lender for rates, but also check out lenders including GuaranteedRate.com or QuickenLoans.com for a quote.

4. Get the current market value of your home. Ask a local broker who knows the area. Or go to Trulia.com, HomeValues.com or Chase Bank's home value estimator tool: https://www.chase.com/mortgage/mortgage-resources/home-value-estimator. When you know the current market value of your home, you can figure out your percentage of equity, compared to debt.

5. Check out federal programs to help you refinance—even if your home is "underwater," meaning your mortgage is greater than the value of your home. Only loans owned by Freddie Mac or Fannie Mae, and have not been refinanced since May 31, 2009 are eligible for the HARP/HAMP refi programs. And you must not have had any late mortgage payments within the past 12 months.

A final thought: When refinancing, think twice about stretching out your mortgage over many more years, adding to your ultimate interest bill. If you've been paying on your loan for seven or eight years, consider refinancing to a 15 year loan. The rate will be even lower, though the monthly payment won't drop as much. But if you plan to live in your home for a while, you will have the possibility of being mortgage-free by retirement—a very secure feeling. And that's The Savage Truth.

Terry Savage is a Registered Investment Advisor, blogger and the author of four best-selling books, including The Savage Truth on Money. *Terry responds to question on her blog at TerrySavage.com.*

HARPER LEE

From Page 10

ingbird" as a prelude to "Watchman."

Second acts raise concern because they rarely surpass the original. In this case, the murky origin of "Watchman," its sudden reappearance and Lee's infirmity add layers of mystery: Is it a lost treasure or a glorified first draft of the classic? Will we learn, for example, that the author is a pedestrian writer who had a great editor improving "Mockingbird"?

So "Watchman" will be a novelty until proven otherwise. On the other hand, we readers finally meet Jean Louise "Scout" Finch as an adult and get a return visit to Maycomb. The most we can reasonably expect is the book provides more insight into Lee's carefully observed world, and more reading pleasure. Even if it fails, the new book cannot diminish "To Kill a Mockingbird."

That means that, 55 years later, the burden of expectations will be lifted for Harper Lee. If "Go Set a Watchman" does nothing more than inspire readers to pick up "Mockingbird," for the first time or again, that is enough of a gift.

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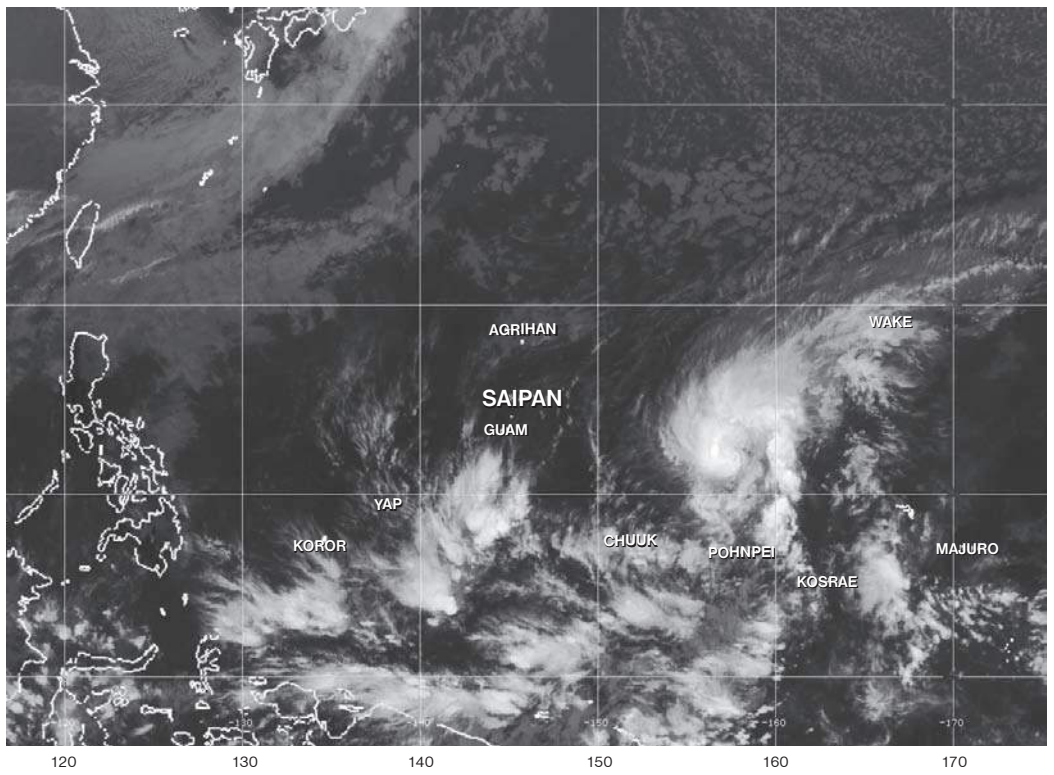
The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88º ▼76º	▲88º ▼77º	▲88º ▼77º	▲88º ▼77º	▲88º ▼77º

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2015
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical Storm Higos (02w) is centered 380 miles north of Pohnpei at 12N157E with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph and moving toward the northwest at 7 mph. A surface trough curves northeastward from Higos across Wake Island to 20N170E then transitions to a cold front that runs to beyond 24N180. Numerous showers and a few thunderstorms near Higos and north of Pohnpei are between 8N and 16N from 155E to 162E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across Wake Island are within 150 miles of a line from 16N162E to 25N180. For more detailed information on Tropical Storm Higos, see bulletins issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM and from JTWC under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼77
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼76
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	▲84	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼80

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼59
Beijing	Sunny	▲53	▼25
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲62	▼54
Honolulu	Windy	▲82	▼70
London	Fog	▲48	▼36
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲75	▼53
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼69
Melbourne	Sunny	▲91	▼64
Miami	Thundershowers	▲78	▼60
New York	Ice	▲35	▼28
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲46	▼39
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲45	▼39
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲52	▼33
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲47	▼39
Salem	Rain	▲52	▼46
San Francisco	Showers	▲62	▼49
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲44	▼27
Tokyo	Sunny	▲48	▼32
Washington, DC	Showers	▲51	▼37

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

4:41 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
10:59 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
5:35 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
11:04 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Tuesday	6:44 AM	6:19 PM
Wednesday	6:44 AM	6:20 PM
Thursday	6:43 AM	6:20 PM
Friday	6:43 AM	6:21 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:26 PM	9:50 AM
Tuesday	11:15 PM	10:29 AM
Wednesday		11:11 AM
Thursday	12:05 AM	11:56 AM
Friday	12:57 AM	12:44 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7

SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)

DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3
UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7
UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota
UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5
UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5
UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4

PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN

DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM
PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM
PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM
DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT
UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM
UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM
UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota
UA184/5077	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5041	10:59pm	6:25pm+1	5 via GUM
UA184/5077	10:59pm	8:05pm+1	2 via GUM
UA184/5043	10:59pm	10:10pm+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daiily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM
UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM
UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM
UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Mon, Tue,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

PSS receives $940K to provide care for young children

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families has announced the award of an Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grant to CNMI Public School System. This grant capitalizes on existing child care capacity and infrastructure to improve access to high quality early learning opportunities for infants and toddlers in low income families. ACF developed the grants to encourage collaboration between new or existing Early Head Start grantees and child care providers.

"As the mother of young children, early learning is a big part of my personal life," said HHS Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell. "We're awarding $940,000 annually to CNMI Public School System to help ensure more children in the Mariana Islands will benefit from high-quality early childhood efforts. As a result, we expect that 80 additional children a year will be able to access Early Head Start. That's a lot of young lives changed, and a lot of impact delivered."

"Research shows the first three years are critical for brain development, and Early Head Start provides high-quality early care and learning opportunities for our most vulnerable young children," said ACF acting assistant secretary Mark Greenberg. "These grants will help support working families by providing a full-day, full-year program for young children."

Infants and toddlers in the new program will receive developmentally enriching caregiving, promoting their physical, cognitive, social and emotional development, and preparing them for future growth. In addition, this program will offer support to parents in their roles as primary caregivers and teachers, helping them move toward self-sufficiency.

The Early Head Start program requires significant support from the community, including matching funds, much of which is delivered in kind. These programs work most effectively when local businesses and community organizations work together to support these most vulnerable children. Public and private entities throughout the state are invited to embrace these new programs and be part of the solution for early childhood care and education.

"We are pleased to partner with communities from all over the country to expand high quality early learning opportunities for children who need it most. By providing the fundamental services young children need, we will improve their chances to reach their full potential," said ACF Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development Linda Smith.

President Obama first proposed the Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership program in his 2013 State of the Union address, when he put forward a comprehensive plan to support high-quality early education for all children from birth through school age.

Visit the ACF website to learn more about Early Childhood Development, Office of Head Start and Office of Child Care. ***(PR)***

Water outage in Chalan Kiya

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the residents of Chalan Kiya that there will be a water outage from 9am to 12pm on Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015.

The purpose of this water outage is to allow CUC's contractor, AIC Marianas, to test a new pressure reducing valve and allow water from the Kannat Tabla reservoir to bring water service to the Chalan Kiya village. This project is part of the Chalan Kiya-Kannat Tabla Waterline Connection Project funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

CUC will be working hard to return water service to our customers in the affected area as soon as possible. CUC apologizes in advance for any inconvenience resulting from this project. Direct inquiries to project manager Yvonne Cabrera at (670) 664-4282. ***(CUC)***

Cope North coming to Saipan

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—Military aircraft familiarization training for local fire and emergency response personnel will be conducted Feb. 12, at the Saipan International Airport in preparation for the multilateral exercise Cope North.

Cope North was previously held in Japan as often as four times a year, and was moved to Andersen AFB, Guam, in 1999. The exercise is now held once a year, and continues to serve as a keystone event to promote stability and security throughout the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. ***(USAF)***

Dangerous jellyfish seen at Guam beach

National Park Service staff urge the public to be aware of numerous Portuguese Man-of-War (also known as Blue Bottle), a type of stinging jellyfish, washed ashore at Asan Beach and other beaches in Guam. Contact with this type of jellyfish can cause intense pain and serious injury. Seek immediate medical attention for serious stings. Due to the presence of jellyfish and high surf, for your safety visitors are advised to stay out of the ocean. For more information or questions contact Mike Gawel, Chief of Resources Management, at 477-7278, Ext. 1010, or the park visitor center at 333-4050, or visit www.nps.gov/wapa. ***(NPS)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors, caregivers' support meeting on Thursday

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's monthly survivors/caregivers support meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015, at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room, from 5:30pm to 7pm. The special guest speaker will be the Medical Referral Office Director, Ronald Sablan. To RSVP, email us or call our office at 682-0050. ***(CCA)***

Naval Base Guam to conduct Giant Voice testing

SANTA RITA, Guam—Naval Base Guam will conduct routine testing of the vital communication and advance warning system, "Giant Voice," today, Feb. 9, starting at 3pm. Residents in surrounding areas of the GV speakers should only hear short verbal tests of the system, including warning tones. This is a monthly test that typically falls on the first Monday of each month, at 3pm. ***(PR)***

Free class on Japanese culture

The Consular Office of Japan on Saipan will organize a class about Japanese culture. Any interested person is kindly requested to register your name by Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2015, by contacting the Saipan Register at cojsf@ag.mofa.go.jp.

The class will be open to just 15 people on a first-come, first-served basis.

The class will be held Thursday, Feb. 26, 2015, from 2:30pm to 4:30pm, at the conference room of the Consular Office of Japan, second floor, Bank Hawaii Building, Mariana Heights Business Park, Puerto Rico, Saipan

The class will take up Japanese animation *Nitabo*, a story of the founder of Tsugaru, shamisen, origami (paper folding), Japanese sake, etc. ***(PR)***

MHS calendar of events

Marianas High School events happening this month:

- Feb. 16: President's Day (a holiday)
- Feb. 26: Early dismissal for high school due to professional development for all PSS staff

Should you have any questions or need to make an appointment to see your child's teacher, call the Main Office at 237-3206/5/4. You can also check our website at www.marianashighschool.com. ***(PR)***

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Sale ends on February 28, 2015
EVERYDAY LOW PRICE
THE #1 FRESH LOCAL VEGETABLES & FRUITS

Social Security expands office hours nationwide

As a result of Congress' approval of the fiscal year 2015 budget, Social Security will expand its hours nationwide and offices will be open to the public for an additional hour on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, effective March 16, 2015. A field office that is usually open from 9am to 3pm will remain open until 4pm. Offices will continue to close to the public at noon every Wednesday so employees have time to complete current work and reduce backlogs.

In Guam and on Saipan, Social Security will be open to the public Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 8am to 3pm and will close to the public at 11am every Wednesday.

Social Security offices in Hawaii and American Samoa will be open to the public Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 8:30am to 3:30pm. The offices will close to the public at 11:30am every Wednesday.

"This expansion of office hours reaffirms our commitment to providing the people we serve the option of top-notch, face-to-face assistance in field offices even as we work to expand online services for those who prefer that flexibility," said Carolyn W. Colvin, Acting Commissioner of Social Security. "The public expects and deserves world-class customer service and thanks to approved funding, I am pleased we will continue our tradition of exceptional service."

In recent years, Social Security reduced public office hours due to congressional budget cuts, growing backlogs, and staffing losses. The agency began recovery in fiscal year 2014 by replacing some field office staffing losses and providing overtime support to process critical work. With the commitment of resources in fiscal year 2015, the agency is able to restore some service hours to the public.

Most Social Security business does not require a visit to a local field office. Many services, including applying for retirement, disability and Medicare benefits, creating a my Social Security account, replacing a Medicare card, or reporting a change of address or telephone number are conveniently available anytime at www.socialsecurity.gov. Social Security also offers assistance via a toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 (Voice) and 1-800-325-0778 (TTY). Representatives are available from 7am to 7pm, Monday through Friday. ***(SSA)***

Feb. 8 proclaimed 'World Marriage Day'

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres is joined by members and leaders of the CNMI Worldwide Marriage Encounter and Fr. Isaac Masga Ayuyu after the proclamation of "World Marriage Day" on Capital Hill on Thursday.

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres led the proclamation of "World Marriage Day" on Capital Hill on Thursday.

Members and leaders of the CNMI Worldwide Marriage Encounter and Fr. Isaac Masga Ayuyu attended the proclamation signing.

World Marriage Day honors the husband and wife as heads of the family, the basic unit of society, the group said.

"World Marriage Day is held every year on the second Sunday in February. For this year, World Marriage Day is on Feb. 8, 2015," the group added in a statement.

The M.E. group is inviting couples in the CNMI to join its community.

In a message, Torres emphasized the importance of marriage for CNMI residents.

"Marriage is not easy. It takes hard work, but in looking at the way my parents raised us, and looking at my own children, it is worth it," the official said. "Raising children is one of the toughest and most rewarding things we will do in our lives. I am grateful to have my wife, Diann, to be my partner in this amazing journey."

"In recognizing the importance of marriage, we must celebrate the love that bonds a union, but also, and maybe more importantly, we must recognize the sacrifice and understanding that is necessary to make it work," he added.

"Congratulations to all the married couples in the CNMI for continuing to make it work. Stay strong and remember to love one another," he said.

For more information about the CNMI Worldwide Marriage Encounter, contact the CNMI Area Ecclesial Team: Fr. Ayuyu at 256-4568 or Charles and Cathy Cepeda at 483-7000 or email ikeayuyu@gmail.com and csablancepeda@gmail.com. ***(Joel Pinaroc)***

Matson announces fuel surcharge reduction

HONOLULU (AP)—Hawaii's largest ocean cargo transportation firm is reducing its fuel surcharge in response to falling bunker fuel prices.

Matson Inc. announced Thursday that it is cutting the charge by 7 percentage points, effective Sunday. The company will continue to monitor fuel costs and adjust the surcharge accordingly, said Dave Hoppes, Matson's senior vice president for ocean services.

Matson also is cutting its fuel surcharge from 32 percent to 25 percent for its service in Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. For its Micronesia service, the surcharge is being cut from 37 percent to 30 percent.

"We continue to be encouraged by the recent moderation in bunker fuel prices, and remain focused on diligently exploring ways in which we can maximize fuel efficiency for our fleet," Hoppes said in a statement.

The reduction means the surcharge will be 24.5 percent, a drop from 31.5 percent, the *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* reported.

The pending cut by Honolulu-based Matson is the single largest decrease since the company instituted the surcharge in 1999, although the surcharge was lower—21.75 percent—in 2010.

With the latest reduction, most customers should save between $140 and $245 per container, Matson officials said.

The surcharge reductions are offset somewhat by a general rate increase of 5.4 percent that was implemented Jan. 4. The results of that increase were an additional $225 for westbound container shippings and $110 for eastbound containers.

Fuel-surcharge changes have no effect on the cost of shipping personal automobiles because that type of cargo is priced differently for competitive reasons.

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D' TORRES BUILDING. GARAPAN
P.O. Box 504340
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 235-8060 Fax: 235-8070

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN,	) CIVIL ACTION) NO.: 14-0146
Plaintiff,	)
v.	) **AMENDED) SUMMONS**
DR. SC RUDOLF W. LEIS,	) **(For Publication)**
Defendant.	)

TO : DR. SC RUDOLF W. LEIS

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file with the Superior Court any Answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which shall be provided upon request to Plaintiff's counsel, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication, and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to the Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger, Plaintiff's attorney, whose address is Second Floor, D'Torres Building, Garapan, P. O. Box 504340, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer.

Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court:
DATED January 29, 2015

CLERK OF COURT

Second Publication

TINIAN CASINO GAMING CONTROL COMMISSION
Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting on Thursday, February 12, 2015, at 9:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference room.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda
- d. Adoption of Minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS[i]
III. REPORTS
- a. Chair's Report
- b. Executive Director's Report

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
V. NEW BUSINESS
- a. Notice of Certification and Adoption of Proposed Rules and Regulations for the Reporting and Proper Filing of Annual Audit, Other Reports, Suspicious Activity and Currency Transaction Reports by a Licensed Casino Operator on the island of Tinian
- b. Ratification of Table Movement Requests
- c. Licensing Matters
  1) Casino Key Employee Applications
  2) Casino Employee Applications
  3) Hotel Registrations
  4) Casino Service Industry License Applications

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION[ii]
VII. MISCELLANEOUS/ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

[i]Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[ii]Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Judiciary Administrative Office
Guma' Hustisia · Iimwal Aweewe · House of Justice
P.O. Box 502165 • Saipan MP 96950
T: (670) 236-9805 • F: (670) 236-9702

Notice of Intent and Public Meeting

The Judicial Branch of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has filed an application with the USDA Rural Development for financial assistance to purchase a Marshal Security Utility Cart and a Marshal Security Transportation Vehicle for detainees.

A public meeting for comments will be held at 4pm on Wednesday, February 18, 2015 in the ground floor Atrium Meeting Room to discuss the proposed project and to provide the opportunity for public comment.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB15-DPW/SWMD-032

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 19, 2015
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OUTSIDE GROUND MAINTENANCE SERVICES FOR ONE (1) YEAR, A PROJECT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 69th birthday to the greatest Papa/Daddy in the whole world, Joaquin "Laling/Jack" Benavente Cruz! Wishing you lots of blessings and good health for many more years. We love you!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-011

AGINGAN WWTP TRANSFORMER REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the replacement of Agingan WWTP transformer in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general of removal of existing transformer, installation and connection of new three-phase pad-mounted compartmental transformer with accessories and components to riser pole, installation of bollards and other related work. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **210 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Project is funded by a grant from the United Stated of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project in contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of $200.00 for one IFB package set

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **February 18, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-15-011, Agingan WWTP Transformer Replacement Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 12, 2015,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 20, 2015** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Manager, Procurement & Supply via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Birhen Martinez, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address birhen.martinez@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-15-001, Rev. No.1

Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1, Songsong Village Rota, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced construction firms for Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1 in Songsong Village, Rota.

Contractor shall provide and pay for all the labor, materials, tools, equipment, transportation, temporary construction of every nature and all other services and facilities necessary to execute, complete and deliver the work within the specified time frame.

A pre-proposal site visit is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 11, 2015** at the CUC Rota Administration Office in Sinapalo, Rota. All potential proposers are encouraged to attend, to familiarize themselves with the site conditions. However the site visit is not mandatory for the potential proposers, owing to the difficult logistics and uncertain air transport.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $50.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February 12, 2015**, 10:00 a.m. (ChST) to be considered. Registered proponents of the initial CUC-RFP-15-001, are exempted from paying the package fee for CUC-RFP-15-001, Rev. No.1.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC RFP -15-001,Rev.1 Steel Roof Enclosure for CUC Rota Power Plant Used Oil Secondary Containment No. 1"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than February 20, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST).**

The Proposer is required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – https://marianaslabor.net/.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to CUC and the Attorney General.

A *Payment and a Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment & Performance bond shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the Commonwealth or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC and the Attorney General, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on **February 13, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Stipulated Order 2 Project Coordinator via email address venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-15-010

WATERLINE REPAIRS FOR LEAK DETECTION, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Waterline Repairs for Leak Detection Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity work consists of excavation to verify leaks and perform leak repairs on various types of waterlines and appurtenances. Materials for leak repairs are to be provided by CUC. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC. The duration of the contract is one year (365 calendar days) from date of award with an option to extend for an additional year, contingent upon funding and if exercised by CUC.

This project is funded by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the US-EPA.

The IFB package (electronic disk file) may be obtained from the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check, wire transfer or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one IFB package set. Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **February 4, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 15, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Seven (7) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"Waterline Repairs for Leak Detection, Saipan"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 24, 2015**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered**.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code*.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract may be contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) approval. If CPUC approval is required, the contract will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 5, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer, Procurement & Supply Division, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Yvonne Cabrera, Engineer, Water/Wastewater Division via email yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director,

MANNY B. SABLAN
Manager, Procurement &Supply

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-15-007

CUC POWER PLANT BUILDING LOWER ROOF REPLACEMENT AT CUC POWER PLANT NO.1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced construction firms for CUC Power Plant Building Lower Roof Replacement at CUC Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Contractor shall provide and pay for all the labor, materials, tools, equipment, transportation , temporary construction of every nature and all other services and facilities necessary to execute, complete and deliver the work within the specified time frame.

A mandatory pre-proposal site visit is scheduled for **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 17, 2015** at the CUC Power Plant Administration Building in Lower Base, Saipan. All potential proposers are required to attend, to familiarize themselves with the site conditions.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division by **February, 20, 2015, 10:00 a.m. (ChST)** to be considered.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP -15- 007 CUC Power Plant Building Lower Roof Replacement at CUC Power Plant No.1" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than March 11, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST)**.

The Proposer is required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page – https://marianaslabor.net/.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to CUC. The proposal bond shall be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The payment and performance bond shall be executed by a surety company authorized to do business in the Commonwealth or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract. The bond shall be in an amount equal to one hundred percent of the price specified in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code*.

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment. There shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proposer awarded a contract.

This Request for Proposal does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of proposals in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on February 24, 2015** to Manny B. Sablan, Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Richard Cano, Power Plant Manager via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ALAN W. FLETCHER
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Business

January job gains show US recovery gaining strength

WASHINGTON (AP)—A resurgent job market in January signaled that the U.S. economy is finally regaining the kind of strength typical of a healthy recovery—with hiring accelerating, wages rising and people who had given up their job hunts starting to look again.

Freer-spending consumers and steady economic expansion have boosted hiring for the past three months to the most robust pace in 17 years.

In January, employers added 257,000 jobs, after 329,000 in December and a sizzling 423,000 jobs in November, the government reported Friday. The November and December gains were much higher than the government had first estimated.

"The labor market was about the last thing to recover from the Great Recession, and in the last six months it has picked up steam," said Bill Hampel, chief economist at the Credit Union National Association. "The benefits for the middle class are now solidifying."

The average hourly wage rose 12 cents to $24.75 in January, a jump of 0.5 percent—the sharpest since 2008. In the past year, hourly pay, which has long been stagnant, has risen 2.2 percent. That's well above inflation, which rose just 0.8 percent in 2014.

The accelerating job and pay growth now make it more likely that the Federal Reserve will begin raising the short-term interest rate it controls by midyear.

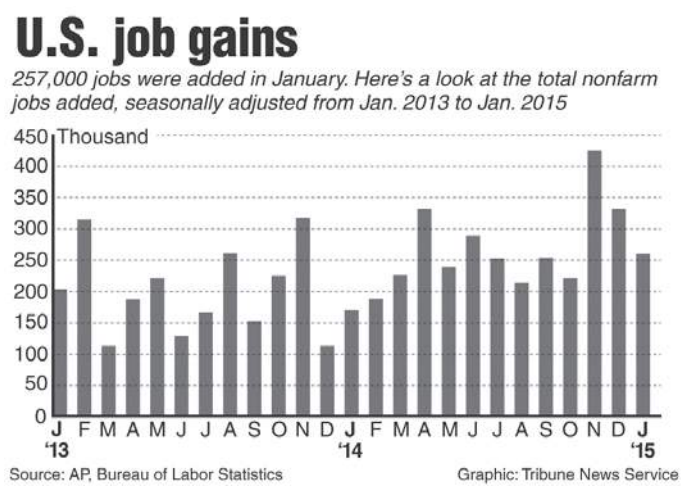
Paul Ashworth, chief U.S. economist at Capital Economics, predicts that the Fed will raise rates from record lows in June.

"Employment growth is clearly on fire, and it is beginning to put upward pressure on wage growth," Ashworth wrote in a research note. "The Fed can't wait much longer in that environment, particularly not when interest rates are starting at near zero."

Indeed, investors responded to the better-than-expected figures by selling U.S. Treasurys, sending yields up, a sign that many think a Fed rate hike might be more imminent than they thought before. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 1.94 percent from 1.81 percent shortly before the jobs report was released.

Stock investors appeared nervous about a Fed rate increase, which could pull down stock prices. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 60 points, or 0.3 percent, to 17,824.

The unemployment rate rose last month to 5.7 percent from 5.6 percent. But that occurred for a good reason: More than 700,000 Americans—the most in six years—began looking for jobs. Not all of them found work, which swelled the number of unemployed. The influx of job hunters suggested that Americans have grown more confident about their prospects.



More Americans are finally seeing something new: A pay raise

WASHINGTON (AP)—As the U.S. economy has steadily recovered from the Great Recession, the critical missing piece has been a painful lack of pay raises for many Americans.

Their pain may be easing.

Friday's jobs report signaled that raises have finally begun to flow through an economy in which, once you factor in inflation, most people earn less than when the Great Recession struck in 2007.

The average hourly wage jumped 0.5 percent between December and January—the sharpest monthly gain since 2008—the government's survey of businesses found. The average has now risen 2.2 percent over the past 12 months to $24.75, comfortably above inflation.

So if you've gone without a meaningful raise, should you expect one?

Skeptics still have doubts. But the quickening rate of hiring provides reason to hope.

The government's figures don't pinpoint which occupations have benefited most from rising pay. Wages have risen at a slightly slower pace for nonmanagers, indicating that bosses are pocketing much of the gains. Still, corporate announcements and job postings indicate that wage growth has been extending to a broad range of industries and professions.

Job listings on Indeed.com, for example, show stronger demand for truckers, health care professionals and technology workers, all of which points to higher wages, said Tara Sinclair, chief economist at Indeed.com and a professor at George Washington University.

"America is really getting back to work, and that's the first step to getting better paychecks," Sinclair said.

The pace of hiring has accelerated 34 percent since 2013. That growth has reduced the number of job seekers and made it harder for employers to find talented employees. The trend, the theory goes, has finally forced companies to loosen their grip on pay to attract and keep the best workers.

Employers have added 3.2 million jobs over the 12 months—including 257,000 in January, 329,000 in December and a sizzling 423,000 in November.

Some economists note that pay figures tend to be volatile from month to month and that January's blowout average increase might be unsustainable. Still, each additional job increases the number of paychecks in the United States, which drives greater consumer spending. And that tends to fuel further hiring and higher wages.

Ford Motor Co. has announced that up to 500 of its lowest-paid factory workers will receive a 48 percent pay raise to $28.50 an hour. Only 20 percent of its employees can be in the lowest tier, so Ford had to raise wages to hire 1,550 workers to make pickup trucks in Missouri and Michigan. Other major companies, including Aetna and the Gap, have also announced pay increases.

Some smaller firms are enjoying a level of growth that has begun to deliver year-end bonuses and raises.

Christopher Falcone is among the beneficiaries. Falcone, 32, has been working as an accountant at a Chicago real estate investment company for the past six months. He said he just received a 3.5 percent salary increase and a 4 percent cash bonus—enough to plan a visit to Disney World to celebrate with his family.

Nation

Police: five dead, including gunman, in Georgia shooting

By RAY HENRY
ASSOCIATED PRESS

DOUGLASVILLE, Ga. (AP)—A man shot six people Saturday afternoon, killing four of them, including his ex-wife and several children before turning the gun on himself on a quiet, suburban street outside Atlanta, police and neighbors said.

Horrified neighbors called 911 and tended to the severely injured victims as best they could before rescuers arrived.

The shooting happened around 3 p.m. in a subdivision about 20 miles west of Atlanta, Douglas County Sheriff's Lt. Glenn Daniel said.

The shooter, whose name was not immediately released, appeared to have targeted his ex-wife and her household, including several children who tried to flee, Daniel said. Authorities did not release the names of the victims because they were still trying to contact the next of kin Saturday. Investigators believe the gunman killed himself at the end of the shooting spree.

Investigators were still trying to determine the shooter's motive and piece together what happened.

"I've been in law enforcement out here 20 years and this is the worst I've ever seen," Daniel said. He did not know when the couple divorced or if they had prior contact with police.

Teresa Carter, 59, said she heard the gunfire from inside her home but did not see what happened. Police said victims were shot inside and outside the home.

Carter said she often saw the children playing in the driveway and around the neighborhood. They enjoyed petting her dog.

"I heard shots, and I heard the girl scream," Carter said. "And then I heard four more shots."

Brandon Hallman was working on a car a few houses down when the shooting started.

"I heard a couple quick shots, you know, back to back to back. Went out there and, you know, looked and it was already over," Hallman said. "We just grabbed some towels and kind of went down there to try and help before the paramedics got here."

Another neighbor, Angela Ansah, struggled to explain to her own children what happened to their slain friends a few houses down. Ansah said some of the children targeted Saturday often came over to her house to play with her own children.

"These are children I see every day, every blessed day," Ansah said.

New England braces for another big storm, maybe foot of snow

BOSTON (AP)—Winter-weary New England saw more snow flurries on Saturday and braced for several days of heavy snowfall, possibly totaling a foot or more.

A winter storm warning issued Saturday night by the National Weather Service was to remain in effect for a large swath of southern New England, including in Boston, in Providence, Rhode Island, and in Hartford, Connecticut, until the early morning hours of Tuesday. Light snow began falling in the Boston area earlier in the day, but what forecasters are calling a "long duration" storm is expected to become more intense on Sunday.

By Monday night, 12 to 18 inches of fresh snow could be on the ground in parts of the region, which is still coping with the aftereffects of storms that hit over the last couple of weeks and dumped record-high snowfall totals in some places.

Michelle Currie, a mother of five whose kids have already missed several days of school, posted on her Facebook page a photo of a weather map showing up to 18 inches of snow could fall on her home in Dracut, less than an hour's drive north of Boston.

"I have to laugh because otherwise I may cry," she said.

The snow is likely to cause problems for commuters on Monday, though it's not expected to accumulate as rapidly as in some of the earlier storms, including a record-busting late January blizzard. There also is little risk seen of significant coastal flooding, a problem during last month's winter blasts.

Boston's transit system, the nation's oldest, has been particularly hard hit. The buildup of snow and ice on trolley tracks combined with aging equipment has stalled trains in recent days, delaying and angering commuters. Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority general manager Beverly Scott said Saturday that crews were doing everything they could, including deploying massive jet-powered snow blowers, to clear tracks before the next storm.

Gov. Charlie Baker acknowledged on Friday that the MBTA was handed an extraordinary situation with old equipment but said the system's overall performance was unacceptable.

Rocket booster aiming for ocean barge in redo of SpaceX test

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—A space weather satellite is poised to blast off Sunday for a destination 1 million miles away, but it's the rocket's ocean landing that is stealing the spotlight.

The SpaceX company will take a second stab at landing a booster on a platform floating off the Florida coast; last month's experiment ended in a fireball.

The "close, but no cigar" attempt on Jan. 10 was caused by an insufficient amount of hydraulic fluid. SpaceX added extra fluid for Sunday's sunset landing attempt. But the booster will fly back faster this time given its particular course, and company officials are less certain of success in this attempt to demonstrate rocket reusability.

"So on one side we fixed the problem, on the other side this trajectory is a lot more aggressive and a lot more difficult," SpaceX vice president Hans Koenigsmann said Saturday. He stressed that the test is secondary and entirely separate from the primary mission of launching the Deep Space Climate Observatory for NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA.

Excellent weather is forecast for the 6:10 p.m. launch.

The Deep Space Climate Observatory is the revitalized version of the Earth-observing spacecraft conceived in the late 1990s by then Vice President Al Gore. It was called Triana back then, after the sailor who first spotted land on Christopher Columbus' famed voyage.

The Triana program was suspended, however, and the spacecraft put in storage in 2001. The spacecraft was tested seven years later and refurbished for this new $340 million mission known as DSCOVR, pronounced discover, a joint effort by NASA, NOAA and the Air Force.

DSCOVR will travel to the so-called Lagrange point, or L1, a spot 1 million miles from Earth and 92 million miles from the sun, where the gravity fields are neutralized.

Asia

PH police chief resigns after deadly terror raid

AP

Protesters display their messages during a rally near the Presidential Palace to coincide with Philippine President Benigno Aquino III addressing the nation in a live broadcast Friday, Feb. 6, 2015 in Manila, Philippines.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president said Friday he has accepted the resignation of the national police chief, the first official to fall following the killing of 44 police commandos in the operation last month that may have killed one of Asia's most-wanted terror suspects.

Speaking in a nationally televised appearance after the government setback drew public outrage, President Benigno Aquino III also said the nighttime anti-terror raid on Jan. 25 should have been aborted because of fatal defects.

Police chief Gen. Alan Purisima, who participated in planning the operation, had been suspended last December for six months by an anti-graft court in a case unrelated to the anti-terror operation.

Aquino said the commander of the elite police Special Action Force members, who oversaw the covert attack in southern Mamasapano town in Maguindanao province, failed to coordinate the assault to ensure the safety of the policemen involved, including possibly arranging for military support. He said the commander could have aborted the mission on at least three instances especially because he knew there was no coordination with support troops.

"Why did it happen that there was no coordination?" Aquino said. "Why was the mission continued when it already drastically changed from the original plan, putting the lives of our troops in great danger?"

TransAsia pilots undergo proficiency tests following crash

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—The dozens of pilots who operate TransAsia Airways' ATR propeller-jets began proficiency tests on Saturday, three days after one of the carrier's ATRs crashed into a river, killing at least 40 people.

The airline said it had canceled 90 flights over the next three days to accommodate the requirement by Taiwan's Civil Aeronautics Administration that all 71 of its ATR pilots be retested.

Preliminary investigations indicate the pilots of Wednesday's doomed flight shut off a running engine of the ATR 72 after its other engine went idle, a move that aviation experts said was an error.

"It's a mistake," said John M. Cox, a former US Airways pilot and now head of a safety-consulting company. "There are procedures that pilots go through—safeguards—when you're going to shut down an engine, particularly close to the ground. Why that didn't occur here, I don't know."

Local prosecutors have said they will look into the possibility of "professional error."

Thomas Wang, head of Taiwan's Aviation Safety Council, said Saturday that it was too early to reach conclusions about any pilot error.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China seizes toilet paper bearing image of Hong Kong leader

BEIJING (AP)—Authorities in southern China have seized about 8,000 rolls of toilet paper and another 20,000 packages of tissues containing unflattering images of Hong Kong's pro-Beijing chief executive, according to an official of the small political party that placed the order. The items were to be sold at a market in Hong Kong during Lunar New Year celebrations later this month, said Lo Kin-hei, a vice chairman of the Hong Kong Democratic Party. The seizure came after Hong Kong was shaken by a massive pro-democracy movement in which demonstrators demanded greater electoral freedom than Beijing is willing to grant. During the demonstrations, protesters expressed anger at Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying, calling him a puppet of Beijing, and asked him to step down. No reason was given for the seizure of the $12,900 worth of goods in the city of Shenzhen, outside of Hong Kong, Lo said.

Divers retrieve more AirAsia bodies, raising total to 100

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesian divers have recovered several more bodies from December's AirAsia crash, including one from the jet's cockpit, bringing the total number of victims retrieved to 100, an official said Saturday. The Airbus A320-200 crashed into the Java Sea on Dec. 28 while flying from Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city, to Singapore. All 162 people on board were killed. Divers on Friday retrieved four bodies, including one from the cockpit, said Henry Bambang Soelistyo, chief of Indonesia's National Search and Rescue Agency. He said the decomposed body—in uniform and still strapped by a seat belt—was believed to be either the pilot, Iriyanto, who like many Indonesians used one name, or French co-pilot Remi Emmanuel Plesel.

World

Ukraine president pushes for fast cease-fire, defensive arms

MUNICH (AP)—Ukraine's president pushed for both a quick cease-fire in his country's troubled east and defensive weapons from the West, as mediators sought momentum Saturday for a deal to stem the fighting at Europe's edge.

Petro Poroshenko and Russian President Vladimir Putin are to confer with the leaders of Germany and France by phone Sunday in an effort to overcome months of setbacks and suspicion and breathe new life into a much-violated September peace plan. But even those who had scheduled the call were cautious about its prospects.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel—who along with French President Francois Hollande traveled to Kiev on Thursday and Moscow on Friday—acknowledged disillusionment over the failure of previous agreements to stick and said "there are no theoretical guarantees" that a new one would either.

Western anxiety over the conflict is growing and sanctions are taking a toll on Russia's economy. More than 5,300 people have been killed since fighting began in April, according to a U.N. tally, and the bloodshed has markedly increased over the past two weeks.

"I do not believe there will be a final solution on this situation. Putin is still not weak enough to accept that, and the West is not strong enough to insist on its terms," said Igor Sutyagin, an analyst with the Royal United Services Institute in Britain.

The resurgent fighting has prompted the U.S. to consider giving lethal weapons to Ukraine, an option opposed by European nations which fear the move would merely exacerbate the situation.

"I cannot imagine any situation in which improved equipment for the Ukrainian army leads to President Putin being so impressed that he believes he will lose militarily," Merkel said at the Munich Security Conference. "I have to put it that bluntly."

U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, who also attended the Munich conference, stopped short of explicitly addressing possible arms deliveries. "We will continue to provide Ukraine with security assistance not to encourage war, but to allow Ukraine to defend itself," he said.

Ahead of curfew ending, bombs kill 40 in Baghdad area

BAGHDAD (AP)—Baghdad's decade-old nightly curfew ended after midnight Sunday, hours after bombs exploded in and around the Iraqi capital, killing at least 40 people in a stark warning of the dangers still ahead in this country under attack by the Islamic State group.

The deadliest of Saturday's bombings happened in the capital's New Baghdad neighborhood, where a suicide bomber detonated his explosives in a street filled with hardware stores and a restaurant, killing 22 people, police said.

"The restaurant was full of young people, children and women when the suicide bomber blew himself up," witness Mohamed Saeed said. "Many got killed."

The Islamic State group later claimed responsibility for the attack, saying the bomber targeted Shiites, according to the SITE Intelligence Group, a U.S.-based terrorism monitor. The Sunni extremists now hold a third of both Iraq and neighboring Syria in their self-declared caliphate.

A second attack happened in central Baghdad's popular Shorja market, where two bombs some 25 meters (yards) apart exploded, killing at least 11 people, police said. Another bombing at the Abu Cheer outdoor market in southwestern Baghdad killed at least four people, police said.

In Tarmiya, a Sunni town 30 miles (50 kilometers) north of Baghdad, a bomb blast killed at least three soldiers in a passing convoy, authorities said.

Hospital officials confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they weren't authorized to brief journalists. No group claimed the other attacks.

Despite the bombings, the government went ahead with its plans to lift the nightly midnight-to-5 a.m. curfew on Sunday. The curfew largely had been in place since 2004, in response to the growing sectarian violence that engulfed Iraq after the U.S.-led invasion a year earlier.

A crowd of men, women and even children played music and waved Iraqi flags early Sunday as they gathered amid a heavy security presence in central Baghdad's Tahrir Square to celebrate the curfew's end. Elsewhere, small groups of young men rode around the capital early Sunday on motorcycles and in cars, cheering and waving Iraqi flags.

After takeover, Yemen's Shiite rebels criticized over 'coup'

SANAA, Yemen (AP)—A day after taking power, Shiite rebels in Yemen found themselves increasingly under pressure Saturday as thousands protested against their rule and a group of nearby countries denounced their "coup."

The leader of the Houthi rebels, Abdel-Malak al-Houthi, gave an impassioned speech defending dissolving Yemen's parliament Friday as the only response to a power "vacuum"—one his group created by besieging the country's president, who later resigned.

The ongoing unrest in the Arab world's poorest country could benefit Yemen's al-Qaida branch, considered by America as the world's most dangerous wing of the terror group. And while the Houthis oppose al-Qaida, they also are hostile to the U.S. and critics say Shiite power Iran backs their territorial gains—something the rebels deny.

The six Arab countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, led by Sunni-ruled Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, issued a statement Saturday carried by the official Saudi Press Agency calling for the U.N. Security Council to "put an end to this coup."

"The Cooperation Council sees Houthi coup as an escalation that cannot be accepted under any circumstances," the council said.

The council serves as a regional counterbalance to Iran, which the council previously has accused of meddling in their own countries' internal affairs. Saudi Arabia, which long has provided an economic lifeline to Yemen, slashed aid following the Houthis' insurrection and shows no sign of restoring it.

In a televised address, Shiite rebel leader Abdel-Malek al-Houthi repeatedly said his opponents wanted to advance "conspiracies" to cause chaos in a country in turmoil since the Houthis began their offensive in September. On Friday, the rebels dissolved parliament and formally announced they seized power in this country of 24 million people.

Health & Fitness

Govt says fewer drivers are drinking, but more use drugs

WASHINGTON (AP)—The number of drivers on the road with alcohol in their systems has declined by nearly one-third since 2007, but there has been a large increase in drivers using marijuana and other illegal drugs, a government report released Friday found.

The report by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said the share of drivers who test positive for alcohol has declined by more than three-quarters since the agency first began conducting roadside surveys in 1973.

But the latest survey, conducted in 2013 and 2014, also found that 22 percent of drivers tested positive for at least one drug that could affect safety. That includes illegal drugs as well as prescription and over-the-counter medications.

The anonymous surveys have been conducted five times over the last 40 years. They gather data in dozens of locations across the country from drivers who agree to participate.

Mark Rosekind, head of the safety administration, credited anti-drunk driving efforts for the decline in drivers who test positive for alcohol, but said "there is no victory as long as a single American dies in an alcohol-related crash."

About 8 percent of drivers during weekend nighttime hours were found to have some alcohol in their system, and 1.5 percent were found with .08 percent or higher breath alcohol content—the legal limit in every state. Drivers with any alcohol in their systems and drivers testing greater than .08 were both down by about 30 percent from the previous survey in 2007. Both groups are also down by more than three-quarters since the first survey in 1973.

At the same time, more than 15 percent of drivers tested positive for at least one illegal drug, up from 12 percent in 2007. The number of drivers with marijuana in their systems grew by nearly 50 percent over the same period of time, 8.6 percent in 2007 to 12.6 percent in 2014.

"The rising prevalence of marijuana and other drugs is a challenge to everyone who is dedicated to saving lives and reducing crashes," Rosekind warned.

A second survey, the largest of its kind, assessed the comparative risk of drunk and drugged driving. The study was conducted in Virginia Beach, Virginia, over a 20-month period and involved the collection of data from more than 3,000 drivers involved in a crash, and more than 6,000 crash-free drivers for comparison.

That survey found that marijuana users are more likely to be involved in accidents, but that the increased risk may be due in part because marijuana users are more likely to be part of demographic groups at higher risk of crashes generally. In particular, marijuana users are more likely to be young men—a group already at high risk.

"Drivers should never get behind the wheel impaired, and we know that marijuana impairs judgment, reaction times and awareness," said Jeff Michael, the agency's associate administrator for research and program development.

One complication to assessing crash risk by drivers who have used marijuana is that it can be detected in the human body for hours and sometimes days after the high from smoking has dissipated. Other studies have shown that a marijuana high typically peaks within 30 minutes and is gone within about three hours after ingestion.

But unlike with alcohol, drivers high on pot tend to be aware that they are impaired and try to compensate by driving slowly, avoiding risky actions such as passing other cars, and allowing extra room between vehicles. On the other hand, combining marijuana with alcohol appears to eliminate the pot smoker's exaggerated caution and to increase driving impairment beyond the effects of either substance alone.

Personal Trainer
Throwing a football well
A spiraling football pass is a thing of beauty, and learning to throw one takes long practice, but these are the basic skills:
1 Grip
Spread fingers lightly across laces
Thumb, forefinger form "U" holding end of ball
Grip firmly with thumb, middle and ring fingers
2 Stance
Feet under hips; side opposite throwing arm faces target
Cup ball lightly with nonthrowing hand
Hold legs and trunk steady and focus on target
3 Start throw
Turn hips, then torso, then shoulders toward target
Cock ball behind your ear, with its nose pointed behind you
4 End and release
Move arm overhead; forearm crosses over elbow as hand extends in direction of throw
Let go with thumb so fingertips can make ball spiral
Wrist-flick: Crucial to good spiral; turn hand and wrist to increase spin; palm faces ground as you follow through
Source: Men's Fitness
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Paul Trap,Tribune News Service

When it comes to jogging, less is more, study argues

BALTIMORE SUN/MCT
A Danish study recently concluded that high-intensity, high-mileage joggers die at the same rate as channel-surfing couch potatoes.

By MONTE MORIN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Hey, fitness junkies, here's something to ponder the next time you lace up your athletic shoes for that long, heart-pounding run: A Danish study recently concluded that high-intensity, high-mileage joggers die at the same rate as channel-surfing couch potatoes.

The study, published Monday in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, is the latest to confront the controversial topic of what constitutes too much exercise.

Although previous research has found that physically active people have at least a 30 percent lower risk of death compared with inactive people, the ideal "dose" of exercise remains uncertain.

Noting that the most famous—and perhaps apocryphal—case of physically overdoing it involved the Athenian messenger Pheidippides, who dropped dead after running 26 miles from the battlefield of Marathon to shout the word "Nike!" or "victory," the researchers hypothesize that strenuous running can damage the heart over time.

"Long-term excessive exercise may be associated with coronary artery calcification, diastolic dysfunction and large artery wall stiffening," wrote lead study author Dr. Peter Schnohrof Copenhagen's Frederiksberg Hospital and his colleagues.

"To our knowledge, there has been no study of the longevity of marathon, half-marathon or triathlon participants, but such studies would clearly be informative."

The researchers based their findings on data from the Copenhagen Heart Study, and followed 1,098 healthy joggers and 3,950 nonjoggers for about 12 years. By the end of the study, 28 of the joggers and 128 of the nonjoggers had died.

"Although joggers as a group appear to live longer than sedentary nonjoggers, light joggers and moderate joggers have lower mortality rates than sedentary nonjoggers," the authors wrote.

However, strenuous joggers—people who ran faster than 7 mph for more than four hours a week; or who ran faster than 7 mph for more than 2.5 hours a week with a frequency of more than three times a week—had a mortality rate that "is not statistically different from that of the sedentary group," the authors wrote.

The study is by no means the last word in the matter—the researchers themselves say the subject needs further investigation—but it may come as welcome news to those easygoing joggers who prefer shuffling along at modest speeds.

"The dose of running that was most favorable for reducing mortality was jogging 1 to 1.4 hours per week, with no more than three running days per week, at a slow or average pace," the authors wrote. (A slow or average running pace was determined to be 5 mph, or a 12-minute mile.)

In an editorial that accompanied the paper, the authors noted that the study was limited by a number of factors.

The study participants included white men and women from Copenhagen between the ages of 20 and 93. However, it did not take into account other forms of physical exercise besides running, according to the editorial's lead author, Duck-Chul Lee, an Iowa State University kinesiologist, and his colleagues.

Lee and his colleagues, who did not participate in the Copenhagen study, wrote that since the study participants self-reported their running habits, they may be subject to error or bias. They wrote also that the 127 study participants who were identified as strenuous joggers may have been too small a group to accurately calculate mortality risk.

Puerto Rico declares flu epidemic; 1 dead, 140 hospitalized

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Puerto Rico's health secretary has declared a flu epidemic in the U.S. territory that has temporarily shut down at least one school.

Ana Rius said Thursday that more than 3,000 cases have been reported so far this year. She said one person has died and more than 140 were hospitalized last month.

The Palmas Academy, a private school in southeast Puerto Rico, temporarily closed for the week to disinfect classrooms after several students were diagnosed with the flu.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared a flu epidemic in the U.S. in December.

Life & Style

Date night or moms night off: moviegoers plan for 'Fifty'

NEW YORK (AP)—Brittany Brown wouldn't miss the opening of the "Fifty Shades of Grey" movie for anything. She has read and re-read all three books, uses the app, follows FSOG role play on Twitter and set her DVR to record trailers for the highly anticipated Valentine's weekend release.

But ditching her boyfriend for her gal gang of superfans was problematic.

"Feb. 14 is actually his birthday. He'll go out with his guy friends and I'll see FSOG with my friends. Later that evening we'll all meet up to party. We'll celebrate Valentine's Day on Sunday as a couple," said Brown, a 22-year-old public relations intern in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Three years in the waiting, the opening of the erotic romance on sweethearts' weekend will be a breathless affair for "Fifty" die-hards everywhere.

Some will have husbands in tow. Some already have tickets. And those book groups of mommies that helped propel the bondage story to more than 100 million copies sold? They'll be crowding theaters, too.

Lyss Stern in New York will be one of them with 50 friends, including some very expectant ones.

"Hopefully nobody will go into labor," she laughed.

Stern, 40, throws mom-centric social events for a living and once feted "Fifty" writer EL James at the height of mania over the books. Come Feb. 13, Stern will be handing out treats to her buddies when they take their seats in a Manhattan theater. She'll include special sweets and other, er, stuff.

"There will be some fun toys, of course," she promised. "It's the most buzzed-about film in the mommy world in a long time. It's a 'Sex and the City' kind of excitement. We know it's not going to win an Oscar, but we also know it's going to be fun."

AP

Jamie Dornan and Dakota Johnson attend a special fan screening of "Fifty Shades of Grey" hosted by The Today Show at the Ziegfeld Theatre on Friday, Feb. 6, 2015, in New York.

Bruce Jenner involved in fatal US crash; star is unhurt

MALIBU, California (AP)—There's no indication Bruce Jenner was being chased by paparazzi who were nearby when the vehicle he was driving became involved in a four-vehicle crash that killed a woman, authorities said Saturday.

The Kardashian family patriarch and Olympic gold medalist wasn't hurt, but seven people were taken to the hospital for evaluation after the crash that happened shortly after noon on Pacific Coast Highway in Malibu, said Los Angeles County sheriff's Sgt. Philip Brooks.

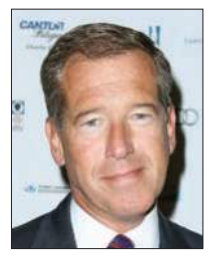
The moment of impact was captured by celebrity photographers who quickly posted the images on the Internet, but Philips said there was no evidence Jenner was trying to get away from them.

Brooks said Jenner cooperated with investigators, passed a field sobriety test and voluntarily submitted a blood sample to determine whether he was intoxicated.

Jenner's publicist, Alan Nierob, said Jenner wasn't hurt, but he offered no additional details.

Brian Williams taking himself off air temporarily

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Brian Williams said he is temporarily stepping away from the "NBC Nightly News" amid questions about his memories of war coverage in Iraq, calling it "painfully apparent" that he has become a distracting news story.



Williams

In a memo Saturday to NBC News staff that was released by the network, the anchorman said that as managing editor of "NBC Nightly News" he is taking himself off the broadcast for several days. Weekend anchor Lester Holt will fill in, Williams said.

NBC News refused to comment Saturday on when or whether Williams would return and who would decide his future.

Williams, however, said he would be back.

"In the midst of a career spent covering and consuming news, it has become painfully apparent to me that I am presently too much a part of the news, due to my actions," Williams said in his memo.

"Upon my return, I will continue my career-long effort to be worthy of the trust of those who place their trust in us," he wrote.

In Celebration of His New Life

†Jesus Fujihira Tesero

October 11, 1946 – January 30, 2015

In his new life, he now joins his:
Parents: †Jose Techiro
†Ignacia Techiro

Siblings: †Jose Namauleg
†Francisco Tesiro
†Odorico Fujihira

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Wife: Rhodora Tababa Tesero
Children: Darislen Tesero Belyeu (Kapono & Solayna)
Jesus Tababa Tesero Jr.
Omar T. /Doreen Tesero (Jakielyn & Jha'annie)
Mark Anthony T. / Ana Tesero (Mayvian, Mayvaleen, Mathan, Mathea & Mark Jr.)
Romano Tababa Manacop

Siblings: Maria & Jesus Taitano and Children
Adresina & +Jose Namauleg and Children
†Francisco & Ana Tesiro and Children
Julie Newman and Children
Ana & Pedro Lizama and Children
Antonio & Marcy Fujihira and Children
Thomas & Susan Fujihira

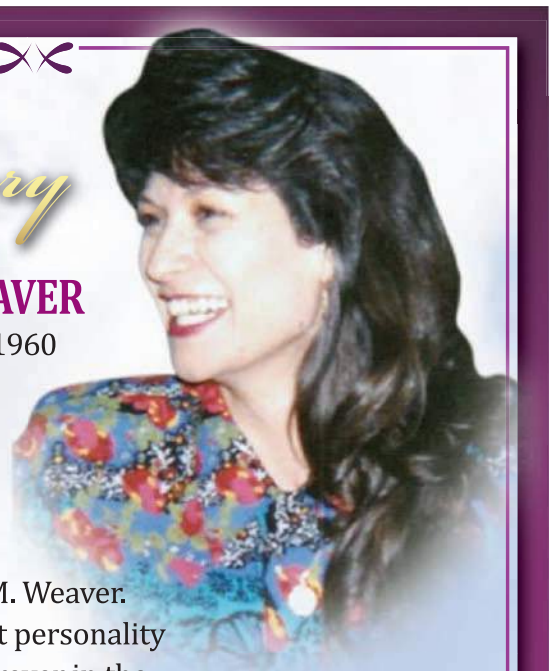
On Tuesday, February 10, 2015, final viewing and last respects will be held at CHC Chapel at 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. at San Antonio Church, immediately followed by interment at Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Your thoughts, prayers, and presence are greatly appreciated.

Tesero Family

In Loving Memory

Our daughter
†SHIRLEY CASTRO WEAVER
was Born to Life on October 20, 1960
and Born to Eternal Life
on February 1, 2015.
In her new life, she is
reunited with her father
†Josephus C. Weaver and her
sister-in-law †Roxanne Marie M. Weaver.
Our Beloved †Shirley's pleasant personality
and loving memories will be forever in the
hearts of her beautiful sons — Kyle Raymond Nail and Tyler Brett (Jennie & Kynleigh) Nail; her brothers — Joseph (Justin & Eva) Weaver and Gerald "Gene" (Jourdon & Leighton, Tori, Garrett, Justis, Pedro) Weaver; and her sister — Deanna Marie Sablan.

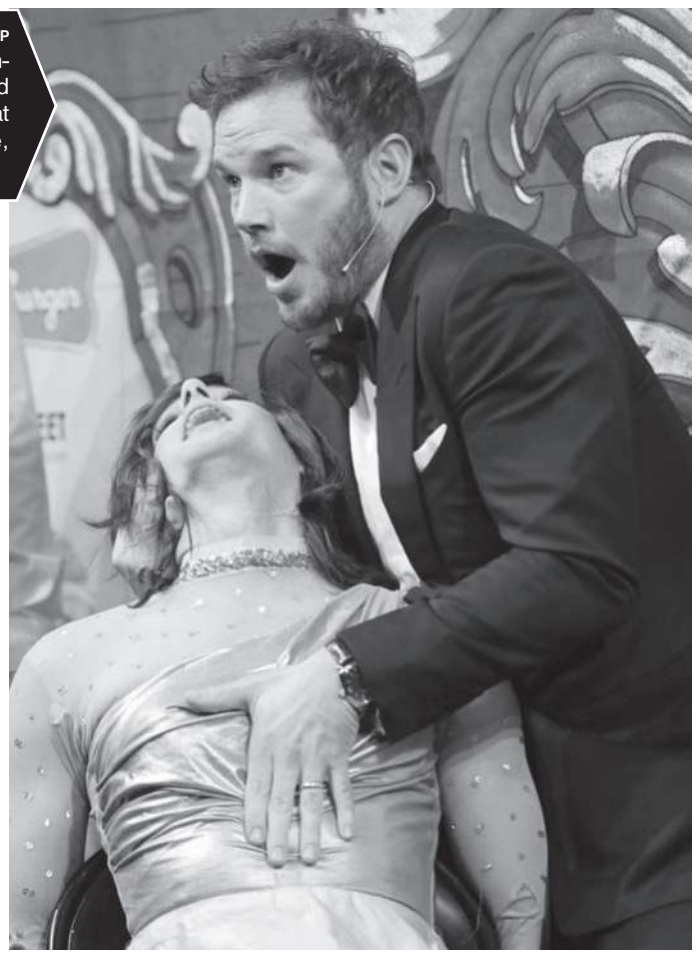


In celebration of our Daughter's new life, we are offering daily Mass of Intentions at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00am. Funeral service for our beloved daughter will be in Palatka, Florida and Memorial Service for Saipan will be announced at a later date.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Maase for your words of comfort and prayers.

Rita C. & David M. Sablan and Families

Hasty Pudding winner Chris Pratt roasted at Harvard



AP

Actor Chris Pratt grabs cast member Matt Walker, who is dressed in drag, during a performance at Harvard University, in Cambridge, Mass., Friday, Feb. 6, 2015.

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts (AP)—Chris Pratt was teased about his early acting roles while being roasted at Harvard University as he received the Hasty Pudding Man of the Year award by America's oldest undergraduate drama troupe.

The "Guardians of the Galaxy" star was feted Friday night.

Zoe Rosenthal and Joshua Friedman, producers of Hasty Pudding's production of "Oops! . Madrid It Again!," joked that Pratt's portrayal of a minor character on "The O.C." played a major role in the TV show's cancellation. They also bashed his role in the film "Deep In The Valley," saying audiences asked for refunds after seeing it.

Pratt called his day in Cambridge "truly remarkable" and thanked the crowd.

He co-stars on NBC's "Parks & Recreation" with Amy Poehler, who was feted last month as Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year.

Rosie O'Donnell exiting 'The View' after 2nd brief stay

NEW YORK (AP)—Rosie O'Donnell is leaving "The View" for a second time.

Her publicist, Cindi Berger, said Friday that the outspoken co-host of the ABC daytime chat show is exiting next week to focus on her five children after the breakup of her marriage.

Berger says O'Donnell and Michelle Rounds, her wife of three years, split in November.

The 52-year-old O'Donnell had returned to "The View" only last summer. Her initial yearlong stay ended stormily in 2007.

Now in its 18th season, the program recently was the target of rumors that a fellow panelist, Rosie Perez, had left for good to appear in a new Broadway play. But she returned this week.

Moderator Whoopi Goldberg and Nicolle Wallace remain with Perez on the show, which was created by Barbara Walters in 1997.

'Birdman' filmmaker wins top prize at Directors Guild Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Birdman" has cracked another awards ceremony.

After taking top honors from the acting and producing guilds, the film about a washed-up Hollywood actor played by Michael Keaton won the top prize at the Directors Guild Awards.

"Birdman" writer-director Alejandro Inarritu was honored at Saturday's ceremony with the prize for outstanding directional achievement for a feature film, giving Inarritu and possibly "Birdman" an edge ahead of the Academy Awards.

The guild dispenses awards to directors in TV and movie categories in what's customarily a final calling for the film that goes on to win the best director trophy and possibly best picture at the Oscars.

Other winners Saturday included Jill Soloway for the TV comedy "Transparent" and Laura Poitras for the documentary "Citizenfour."

Sale of Swiss-owned Gauguin painting shrouded in secrecy

BERLIN (AP)—A painting by French post-impressionist Paul Gauguin has reportedly sold for a record-breaking sum, but its erstwhile owner won't reveal the price or buyer.

The oil painting, called "Nafea faa ipoipo?"—Tahitian for "When will you marry?"—and showing two Tahitian women, had belonged to the Swiss family Staehelin for almost 100 years. Earlier this week, Swiss media citing unidentified art world insiders reported that the 1892 painting was bought by Qatari royalty for $300 million, making it the most expensive painting ever.

Ruedi Staehelin, who speaks for the Staehelin Family Trust, would only confirm the sale.

"The contract has been signed, the sale and handover will take place in January 2016," Staehelin said in an email Saturday to The Associated Press. "According to the contract I can't provide any information on the buyer or the price."

In an interview with Swiss paper Basler Zeitung, however, Staehelin was quoted as saying about the price: "It's clear that it isn't just a figure in the double-digit millions."

The sale was prompted by the current boom on the art market, he told the newspaper.

Qatar Museums, run by the emirate's royal family, didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The painting is currently exhibited at the Fondation Beyeler in Riehen, near the northwestern Swiss city of Basel. Before the sale is completed next year it is also scheduled to be shown in Madrid and Washington, the Basler Zeitung reported.

The Kunstmuseum Basel, where the painting had been deposited, said it regretted the sale and the Staehelin Family Trust's simultaneous decision to withdraw other works loaned to its collection.

AP

In this Feb. 6, 2015 picture women look at the painting "Nafea faa ipoipo?" (1892) by French painter Paul Gauguin in the Fondation Beyeler in Riehen, Switzerland.

Beyonce and Jay, Kim and Kanye, and more party at Roc Nation

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Kanye showed off his new kicks to admirers. Rihanna braved the rain sans umbrella. Willow Smith danced to the music, and Beyonce gave out hugs and took pictures with well-wishers.

There were starry sights everywhere you looked at Jay Z's annual Roc Nation pre-Grammy brunch Saturday. The event was held once again at a posh mansion in Beverly Hills, but this year, intermittent rain put a damper on the glamourous outdoor garden setting.

Event planners were prepared, however, to shield the likes of Nicki Minaj, Diplo, Childish Gambino, other celebrities and VIP industry guests with tents, where most guests remained huddled during the four-hour event. Other guests included Michael Bolton, who was seen bopping his head to hip-hop, plus Demi Lovato, Janelle Monae, Kelly Rowland, Nicki Minaj, Miguel, Diplo, J. Cole, Nick Jonas and Keke Palmer.

Kim Kardashian, whose stepfather, Bruce Jenner, was unhurt in a fatal car accident in Malibu on Saturday, was present with her husband, who held court at one point with Jay Z and Beyonce.

The Roc Nation brunch has become one of the most coveted invites of Grammy week, and getting an invite doesn't mean that you'll get in. Last year, a rush of people caused security to close things off, leaving some out of luck.

This year, few showed up fashionably late, getting there early to avoid the crowds. Guests like Natasha Bedingfield and songwriter Diane Warren were brought to the private house in a shuttle to avoid traffic problems.

The Grammys are scheduled for Sunday.

Woman still nursing wound of breakup nine years ago

DEAR ABBY: I recently found out my ex-boyfriend married the girl he cheated on me with, and they have had a baby. I didn't think it would affect me because it has been nine years since our breakup, but I feel devastated and sad all over again. I constantly wonder why he was blessed with the happy ending I was wishing for. I ask myself why I haven't met anyone worthwhile.

I am scared to go through the hurt and pain again, so I put on a smiling face for everyone. I want to forget this miserable relationship and be happy. What can I do to move on with my life?

LOST IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR LOST: That's a good question, and I'm glad you asked because it means you may finally be ready to do it.

One way to move forward would be to keep busy so you won't brood. Make an effort to meet new people, because the saying "no risk, no reward" is true. If you have saved any mementos of your relationship with your ex-boyfriend, box them up and put them away— or get rid of them entirely because this chapter of your life is finished.

I can't guarantee this will bring you another romance, but it will be a step in the right direction.

DEAR ABBY: My mother is a certified nursing assistant for hospice and loves her work. She has been assisting the terminally ill for 16 years. I'm writing because lately she has become insistent that my brother and I complete our wills, medical directives, powers of attorney, etc.

My brother and I are in our late 20s and in excellent health. While I do agree that Mom's advice is prudent, I have the impression that she views this issue—and our family—through the lens of her negative work experiences. Is there an appropriate time and place to discuss this matter?

LOOKING WAY AHEAD IN CHICAGO

DEAR LOOKING: Absolutely. How about tonight at the dinner table? The time to have these discussions—and put your thoughts in writing—is while you are healthy and thinking clearly. While I agree that what may be driving your mother are things she sees at work every day, the reality is that illness and tragedy can strike people of all ages at any time.

It's important that family members hear what a person wants —or doesn't want— should a situation arise in which that person is unable to speak for him—or herself. And it's equally important for you and your brother to hear what your mother's wishes are if you don't already know.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 70-year-old senior who is sexually dysfunctional. I am so lonely. I have outlived two of my brides. Do you think I could find someone who would just appreciate holding hands and whispering sweet words without the physical contact?

YOUNG AT HEART IN TEXAS

DEAR YOUNG: Not only do I think you can, I suspect you may need police protection to control the crowd of applicants. Years ago, my aunt, the late Ann Landers, polled her female readers asking if they would prefer "holding and cuddling" to actually doing "the deed." The majority of them answered in the affirmative.

Good advice for everyone—teens to senior—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

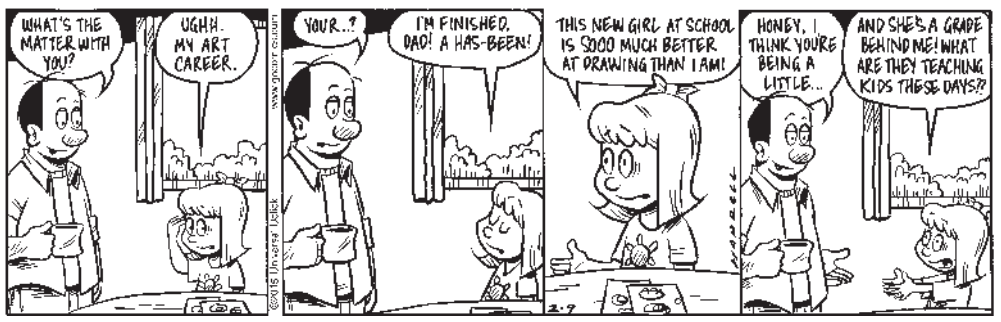
By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?
UGHH. MY ART CAREER.
YOUR..?
I'M FINISHED, DAD! A HAS-BEEN!
THIS NEW GIRL AT SCHOOL IS SOOO MUCH BETTER AT DRAWING THAN I AM!
HONEY, I THINK YOU'RE BEING A LITTLE...
AND SHE'S A GRADE BEHIND ME! WHAT ARE THEY TEACHING KIDS THESE DAYS?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

...STAY AWAY... ...mumble... STOP LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT... mumble.
AAUGH!
WAS IT THAT DREAM WHERE YOU'RE TRAPPED ON AN ELEVATOR WITH A HUNGRY MICHAEL MOORE?
HE JUST KEPT LICKING HIS LIPS!

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

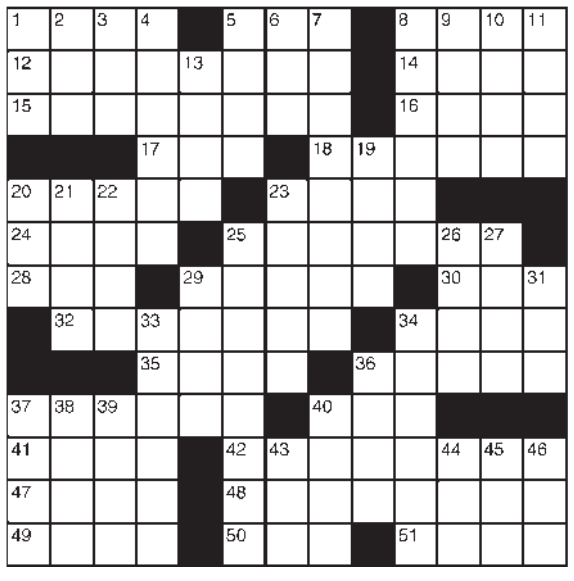
ACROSS
1 Where Manilow's Lola worked
5 Boardroom boss (Abbr.)
8 Pizzazz
12 "Messiah," e.g.
14 Paradise
15 High-priced powder
16 South American nation
17 Help
18 Holy wars
20 Offspring
23 Channel marker
24 Deserve
25 Cleaning cloth
28 Dead heat
29 Mattress brand
30 Swing back and forth
32 Scott Joplin's music
34 Soda flavor
35 Sitarist's rendition
36 Diet entree
37 Swamp
40 Capitol Hill VIP
41 "— Your Enthusiasm"
42 Record of a work shift
47 Bedouin
48 Distance measurer
49 Depend (on)
50 Yule beverage
51 Tax

DOWN
1 Gear tooth
2 Acapulco gold
3 Chum
4 When duelers traditionally met
5 Gunk
6 Towel designation
7 Perfect word choice
8 Gentle breeze
9 Concept
10 Uncool one
11 Wildebeests
13 Valhalla bigwig
19 Tittle
20 Collection
21 Twosome
22 Vicinity
23 Myanmar's old name
25 "The Ipcress File" author Len
26 MPs' quarry
27 Festive
29 Male deer
31 Wander
33 Dirty
34 Annul
36 Appear
37 Wound reminder
38 Entice
39 Exam format
40 Air pollutant
43 Wedding response
44 Consumed
45 Gun the engine
46 Uninteresting

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	W	L		I	T	E	M		S	A	P	S
M	O	I		N	E	M	O		O	L	L	A
P	E	N	D	U	L	U	M		N	O	O	N
		C	U	R	F			M	A	T	T	F
T	A	H	O	E		S	K	I	T			
A	L	P	S		P	E	N	T	A	G	O	N
R	O	I		A	R	G	O	T		O	R	E
P	E	N	C	H	A	N	T		B	R	E	W
			Y	O	Y	O		L	O	G	O	S
B	A	G	G	Y			S	C	L	E		
I	R	O	N		P	E	N	E	L	O	P	E
R	I	L	E		A	V	O	W		U	R	N
D	A	F	T		R	A	B	E		S	O	D

Friday's answer 2-9



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tyson Houseman, 25; Mia Farrow, 70; Joe Pesci, 72; Carole King, 73.

Happy Birthday: Contracts, finances and legal matters will take time and patience. Let your intuition guide you in matters that can influence your lifestyle. Open discussions that allow you to figure out the best course of action will be your best bet. Opportunities are present, but you'll have to use your discipline and skills to make your dreams come true. Your numbers are 6, 14, 20, 26, 35, 38, 40.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): You will be missing some important information. Ask questions and be observant in order to get a good overview of what's to come and the possibilities that exist. The amount of time and effort you put in will be recognized and rewarded. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Offer assistance, and unexpected favors will develop. An unusual approach to the way you do things will generate interest and advancement. Romance is in the stars, but proceed with caution. Equality will be the deciding factor when it comes to love. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Look at your options and the consequences of each. Group endeavors will be met with opposition. Being prepared will make a difference to the outcome. Focus on personal improvements that will give you greater freedom. Meddling must be avoided. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Indulge in new hobbies or activities that are enlightening and make you think about your beliefs and future endeavors. Relationships are highlighted, and meeting people who share your current mindset will lead to a very special connection. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Use your imagination and you will come up with solutions that can help you accomplish what you set out to do. Embrace challenges and incorporate discipline into every aspect of your life. Set high standards and be relentless in your pursuits. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): A partnership will present an opportunity if you can come to an agreement that offers equality. Improve your lifestyle by being mindful of the people you deal with daily. Refurbish an old idea and you can turn it into a success. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Show off your skills. Present what you have to offer with confidence. An opportunity to make a difference to someone in need will boost your reputation. Expose someone who isn't contributing or who is trying to take credit for your work. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't take "no" for an answer. Gather your thoughts, ideas and whatever else is needed to garner interest in your pursuit. Love is in the stars, and an interesting question you ask someone will dispel any uncertainty. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Make wise choices. Don't hold back your feelings. It's time to confess and take charge of the situation. A change in your current living arrangements may be difficult at first, but beneficial as time passes. Don't make unrealistic promises. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Keep your emotions in check. Don't travel or attend events that have the potential to leave you in a vulnerable position. Reunite with people from your past and you'll discover more about your roots and how to solve a problem. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): There is money to be made, deals to be struck and positive changes to implement. Your imagination will help you overcome obstacles. Preparation will be the key, so don't let uncertainty creep in and take over. Look, see and do. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Take control of a personal situation you face using your ability to make everyone seem important. A partnership will be under scrutiny due to differing lifestyles. Don't hesitate. Confidence and drive will help you get your way. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive and caring. You are creative, original and opportunistic.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		6			1		8	
9			6	7	2			
		3				6		7
8	1			6			9	
	3		5	1	7		6	
	4			8			5	2
4		8				5		
			1	3	9			8
	7		4			9		

Difficulty Level ★ 2/09

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's SUDOKU Answer

8	2	3	9	4	5	7	1	6
6	4	9	2	7	1	5	8	3
5	7	1	3	8	6	2	4	9
1	3	6	5	9	2	4	7	8
4	9	2	7	1	8	3	6	5
7	8	5	6	3	4	1	9	2
3	6	8	4	2	7	9	5	1
2	5	4	1	6	9	8	3	7
9	1	7	8	5	3	6	2	4

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/9

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

DOES THE LAUNDRY EVER END??? Solution: 5 letters

G	P	L	E	H	M	W	S	E	P	A	R	A	T	E
D	N	F	D	N	A	H	W	H	I	T	E	S	W	C
T	O	A	A	S	T	M	Y	R	R	A	C	A	O	H
R	R	B	H	I	C	B	P	F	S	I	T	I	Y	S
O	I	R	O	L	H	E	A	E	S	E	N	G	S	E
S	S	I	M	Y	S	M	H	S	R	S	I	K	T	L
R	T	C	E	N	I	T	E	U	K	E	S	S	N	B
O	N	S	I	L	O	C	T	M	N	E	K	T	A	B
L	E	R	Y	L	O	A	A	E	S	R	T	A	P	U
O	G	E	C	R	R	C	N	S	A	E	E	I	A	B
C	R	V	P	E	H	I	E	D	N	S	L	N	O	L
E	E	O	P	I	T	R	C	A	R	E	T	C	S	E
M	T	M	N	U	D	A	O	L	S	Y	N	A	Y	A
I	E	E	O	D	O	R	S	O	A	K	E	I	M	C
T	D	R	Y	C	L	E	A	N	I	N	G	R	L	H

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Basket, Bleach, Bubbles, Care, Carry, Clothes, Coins, Colors, Cycles, Darks, Detergents, Dresses, Dry Cleaning, Dryer, Fabric, Family, Gentle, Hamper, Hand, Hang, Help, Home, Hygiene, Iron, Linens, Load, Machine, Match, Mats, Odors, Pants, Piles, Process, Removers, Rinse, Routine, Separate, Shrink, Soak, Soap, Sort, Stain, Temperature, Time, Wash, Water, Whites

Last Friday's Answer: Magnetic

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Cornerstone

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

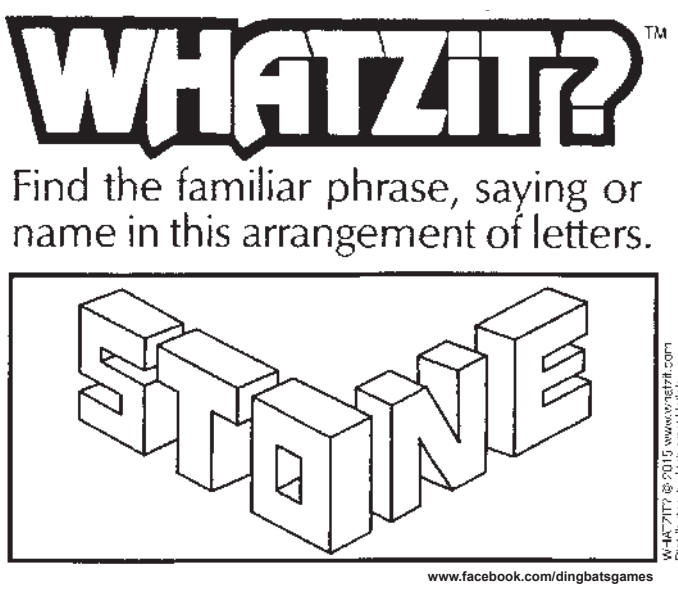
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find today's solution in classified section

JOB OPPORTUNITY

RECEPTIONIST

Our busy law office has an immediate opening for a receptionist, Fluency in the English language, punctuality, dependability, and a strong work ethic, are essential.

The duties of the position include answering and screening incoming telephone calls; assisting visitors and clients; receiving and accounting for payments; preparing, logging, filing, and delivering documents; preparing collection reports and checks; and performing other office duties as instructed. Salary depends on experience and qualifications.

If you qualify, please send us the following, by email only, to mwhite@saipan.com:

- A cover letter, letting us why you want the position and why we should hire you
- A copy of your resume
- Proof of your United States citizenship or lawful permanent residence; and
- A current police clearance

Please, no telephone calls.

The position will remain open until field.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC

ST. JUDE RENAL CARE FACILITY, INC.

(01) NURSE SUPERVISOR

- Must pass NCLEX – RN
- Current CNMI RN License
- Attended a hemodialysis training program
- At least two years' experience in hemodialysis and one year experience as a charge nurse in dialysis
- English language skills – proficient in spoken, written and comprehension
- Must hold a Bachelor of Science in Nursing
- Certification in Basic Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Flexible with time schedule

Interested applicants must submit a resume or pick up an application at St. Jude Renal Care Facility Inc., at Chalan Kiya, Saipan. Deadline to submit application will be on 02/11/2015 at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please call our HR Office at (670) 234-2903 ext. 128.

SUNSHINE 100 RESORT DEV'T. CO., LTD.
is inviting individuals to apply for the following positions:

General Manager Assistant

Bachelor's degree in architecture, urban planning, or construction. At least 6 years work related experience with no less than 4 years experience in managerial or higher level position in project management, preferably in property development industry, urban planning or construction. Must have experience in real estate development, project initial planning through completion, construction planning and management including strategic planning and project analysis. Must have experience in the preparation of real-estate market reports as well as feasibility report. Requires excellent multi-tasking, organizational, interpersonal and leadership skills. Must have expertise in Word, Excel, Power Point and CAD.

A pre-employment drug testing will be required.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at SUNSHINE 100 RESORT DEV'T. CO., LTD. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Friday, February 20, 2015.

SUNSHINE 100 RESORT DEV'T. CO., LTD. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

BEST SUNSHINE INTERNATIONAL

Best Sunshine is committed to develop Saipan's first Integrated Resort, which includes hotels, retail shops, restaurants, spa & wellness, health & aesthetics tourism, conference, casino and themed entertainment. We invite interested professionals to apply for the following position.

CONSTRUCTION FINANCE AND FORECASTING SPECIALIST

Job Responsibilities:

- Arrange for financing of materials and supplies for a multi-billion dollar project.
- Consult with vendors, engineers, architects, owners, contractors and subcontractors to discuss and formulate materials and supplies estimates.
- Prepare estimates for use in selecting vendors or subcontractors.
- Confer with engineers, architects, owners, contractors and subcontractors on changes and adjustments to cost estimates.
- Prepare estimates used by executive management for purposes such as planning, organizing and scheduling work.
- Ensure the timely provision of capital for all activities on the projects.
- Provide input into project establishment and set up as required.

Minimum Requirements:

- 5 years of experience in the construction industry.
- 5 years of experience in the finance industry.

Salary is commensurate with experience and education. Please email your complete detailed resume to hr@bestsunshineint.com. Background check may be required before employment.

Thank you, Si Yu'os Ma'ase, and Olomwaay for your interest in Best Sunshine!

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Realty Management Services

Fina Sisu Terraces
Small 1-BR, 1-BTH. Unit approximately 284 sq.ft. **$250**/month.
2-BR, 1-BTH. **$350-$550**/month. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted.

Ocean View Terraces
(Navy Hill)) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$600/month

Sunset View Terraces
(Navy Hill) Unit Approximately 642 sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apt with private balcony & beautiful view.
$550/month

Hilltop Condominium*
(San Vicente) Unit approximately 1,024sq/ft Luxury 2BR & 2BTH Apt with private balcony & majestic view. **$700**/month
Luxury 1BR & 1BTH approximately 600 sq/ft **$500**/month
***Wi-Fi & nighttime security excluded**

FEATURES:

- **Fully Furnished**
- **Back-up Generator**
- **Air-conditioning in all rooms**
- **FREE WiFi**
- **Laundry Area**
- **Nighttime Security**
- **Ample Parking**
- **24hr water**

Please visit our website at www.saipan-properties.com Call for an appointment 235-6527/8.

YUEYANG INTERNATIONAL DBA
FISHERMAN'S WHARF SEAFOODS RESTAURANT

IMMEDIATE HIRING

3-Cooks
6-Waitresses
1-Kitchen Helper
1-Bartender

Salary will commensurate to experience and qualifications. Must have work related experience. U.S. qualified workers preferred, but not required. Interested applicants, please call 233-0903 or 783-0309 and look for Marj or Cindy or apply in person at Tun Kiku's Building at Garapan, Middle Road.

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HELPING YOU FIND THE PROPERTY OF YOUR DREAMS.
WE HELP PEOPLE IN BUYING, SELLING AND LEASING PROPERTY.
MAKING YOUR REALTY DREAMS A REALITY.
Tel: 670-233-0903 ▪ Cell: 670-783-0309

MAR PAC Inc.
EST: 1973

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
Marianas Pacific Dist., Inc. is looking for highly motivated and experienced individuals to work as

Front Desk Clerk

- Good Oral and Written Communications Skills
- Computer literate with proficiency in Microsoft Word, Power Point, Excel and Outlook
- Must be well organized and professional
- Must be detail & deadline oriented
- Must have knowledge of clerical and administrative procedures and systems such as filing and record keeping
- Must be able to operate standard office equipment such as printers, fax and copier machines
- Must be able to work Evenings/Overtime if needed
- Must be 18 yrs of age or older

MarPac Dist., Inc offers competitive salaries commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Applications may be picked up and submitted at the MARPAC office located in Gualo Rai Village – Saipan. Deadline of submission is on February 13, 2015.

NO TELEPHONE CALLS PLEASE.

As condition of Employment, MARPAC requires proof of identity and eligibility to work in the CNMI. Police and Court Clearance required and pre-employment drug testing is mandatory.

MARPAC Dist., Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

LEAVING ISLAND SALE

2015 RAV 4. 4WD. Automatic. Call for deatails. 989-1126

Oxford Institute Academy, LLC
Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Operations Manager
(2) Music Teachers

$6.50/hour to $15.00/hour

- Must have 5 years' experience
- Able to play Piano & Violin
- College Graduade

If interested, send resume to PMB 365 Box 10000 or email reginasaipan@hotmail.com

MAKE-A-WISH®
Visit us at 865 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH • Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

Warehouse for RENT

REM GUALO RAI
Warehouse #3 - Size: 4,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #2 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.45 per sq/ft. Negotiable

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEAS CALL
235-6527/28 or 285-1317

Marianas Management Corporation
is currently seeking for
AC TECHNICIAN
Interested applicants may send resume to hrd3@joeten.com or may pick up an application at Joeten Susupe Bldg., 2nd Floor
Marianas Management Corporation is an equal opportunity employer

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Facsmile: (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Plaintiff:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM Plaintiff, vs. JUAN P. SAN NICOLAS and JOANN M. SAN NICOLAS, Defendants.	) Civil Action) No. 13-0178 (R))) NOTICE OF) AUCTION and) JUDICIAL SALE))))

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 30th day of May , 2014, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the Order Approving Judicial Sale of Mortgaged Property, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the **11th day of March, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Bank of Guam, District II, Songsong Village, Rota, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 345 R 172 located in Sinapalo, Rota, containing an area of 1,057 square meters, more or less as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 345 R 04 dated December 19, 1983, on file in said office.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c) to reject any and all bids.
2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.
3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to Bank of Guam.
4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and Bank of Guam reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 4th day of February 2015.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
CALL 235-NEWS

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

POWERHOUSE OPERATOR

Minimum three (3) years related work experience;
Certified Water treatment & Distribution operator preferred; Must be a certified Class A/B UST operator; Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

LAUNDRY ATTENDANT

Minimum of three (3) months of work experience; Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Friday, February 13th, 2015.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

CARPENTER

Minimum three (3) years work experience as a cabinet maker and finishing carpenter; Must be able to work evenings, weekends and holidays.

COOK (KOREAN CUISINE)

Minimum two (2) years of related experience with Korean cuisine and ingredients; Must have previous experience in high volume production including large banquets, functions and special events; High School Diploma or higher is required; Must be able to work early mornings, nights, weekends, and holidays.

CLUBMATE

Must have previous related work experience and must pass all American Red Cross Lifeguard requirements (including a 300 yard continuous swim test); Sports-minded individuals are encouraged to apply; Must be able to work on evenings, weekends and holidays; Must possess good verbal and written communication skills; Korean, Japanese and/or Russian language skills a plus; Paid training and free two year lifeguard certification course for eligible candidates.

Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Monday, February 16th, 2015.
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance.
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Employment Opportunity

The NMI Board of Nursing seeks a Full time Administrative Assistant:

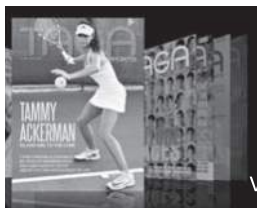
Essential competencies
1. Communications
2. Organizatonal Skills
3. Computers: Data Base management

Qualifications
High School graduate with at least two (2) years experience in data entry and customer service. Must have strong administrative skills are required, as well as advanced computer skills including knowledge of MS word, Excel and power point.

Closing Date: February 13th, 2015.

A detailed copy describing the individual position is available by request through our email below.

Interested applicants please submit your resume and a cover letter to:
CBNE Board
Email: nmibon@gmail.com



TAGA *Sports* is now on issuu.com/tagasports!
Check out the latest issue and back issues of TAGA *Sports,* the CNMI's first and premier sports magazine, on issuu.com/tagasports!
Now you won't have to miss a copy of TAGA *Sports*.
Visit issuu.com/tagasports to get your fix on all sports happenings in the CNMI!

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 15-004

Opening Date: Friday, February 06, 2015
Closing Date: Thursday, February 19, 2015

Trades Assistant (Operator)

Duties: Work under the direct supervision of the Deputy Director or his/her designee. Assists with installations, repairs and general maintenance in assigned service area; operates motorized vehicles, equipment machinery, and hand and power tools. Performs routine and preventative maintenance on equipment, vehicles, systems and/or infrastructure; performs basic inspections; and conducts basic troubleshooting of issues. Responds to trouble calls as needed. Prepares job site for work including gathering and setting up materials and supplies, and setting work safety barriers for protection and to direct traffic flow away from work site. Gathers, cleans and returns equipment, materials and supplies used. Cleans and maintains work site after project or repair work is complete. Monitors equipment; takes readings and collects data; documents equipment readings; prepares and submits data and work reports. Performs inventory spot checks to ensure adequate materials and supplies are available for daily maintenance activities. Servicing equipment by disassembling, assembling, cleaning and calibrating; Assisting with equipment inspections; Monitoring gauges on engine generators; Reading meters and collecting data; Monitor and maintain pump fuel; Operating incinerators; Operating oil and water separator pump; Servicing and preparing oil filters; Responding to customer calls; Maintaining grounds, trimming trees and removing obstacles; Fabricating materials for required parts. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned.

LOCATION(S): Power Plant, **Rota,** Northern Mariana Islands, USA.

SALARY: $16,742.00 per annum.

CONTRACT: Not Contracted.

POSITION(S): One (1).

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma or GED or ABE Program AS; Knowledge of: Customer service principles; Basic mathematical concepts; Safety procedures and safe work practices; Modern office technology. Skill in: Providing customer service; Reading maps and drawings; Operating heavy and light equipment machinery, hand and power tools required of assigned area; Adhering to safety procedures and safe work practices; Prioritizing tasks and managing time for efficiency; Identifying issues and solving problems; Providing attention to detail; Taking equipment readings and recording data; Maintaining activity logs and reports; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Must have a CNMI driver's license or one from a U.S. jurisdiction. Applicants may be tested AND are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447/234-7689/234-7670 - Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

AMENDED NOTICE

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2015

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated $1,240,460.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of $868,915.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); $309,294.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, $62,251.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2015.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning January 06, 2015.

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by Monday, April 06, 2015, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after April 06, 2015, will not be accepted.

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows: February 18, 2015, 5:00 p.m. & February 25, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

For residents living on the island of Saipan, the briefing will held at the NMHC Office in Garapan; Residents living on the island of Tinian, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in San Jose Village; and Residents living on the island of Rota, the briefing will be held at the NMHC Office in Songsong Village.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planning Assistant at 234-6866 or 234-7689.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

Davis hurts shoulder, Bulls pound Pelicans, 107-72

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—After Pelicans All-Star Anthony Davis hurt his right shoulder on a hard, awkward fall on an alley-oop dunk, Pau Gasol and the Chicago Bulls pulled away for a 107-72 victory over New Orleans on Saturday night.

Gasol had 20 points and 15 rebounds for Chicago, which snapped a three-game skid. Derrick Rose added 20 points for the Bulls, who went on a 40-11 run after Davis went out.

The dunk that drove Davis from the game was a two-handed jam of Tyreke Evans' lob. Davis' body swung like a pendulum as he held the rim, then the 6-foot-10, 240-pound forward fell horizontally as he lost his grip.

Davis stayed in the game briefly before taking himself out with the score tied at 35 and 4:16 left in the first half.

Tony Snell scored 19 points and Jimmy Butler 18 for Chicago.

Evans had 15 points for New Orleans, while Alexis Ajinca scored 10.

With Davis in the locker room, Chicago closed the first half on a 13-4 run that included two 18-foot jumpers by Gasol, Rose's 3 and Gibson's putback dunk that made it 48-39.

The Bulls then blew the game open by starting the third quarter on a 27-7 run that included 3s by Snell and Gasol.

Butler's dunk put Chicago ahead 75-46 with 3:56 left in the period. The Pelicans never got as close as 20 after that and trailed by as many as 36 points in the fourth quarter.

After missing shots often early, the Bulls wound up shooting 51.2 percent (43 of 84), including 10 of 22 from 3-point range. New Orleans shot only 37.2 percent (32 of 86) and was 4 of 17 from deep. Chicago also outrebounded New Orleans 45-38.

Mavericks 111, Blazers 101, OT

In Dallas, Dirk Nowitzki capped a late rally with a 3-pointer that forced overtime and finished with 25 points, and Chandler Parsons scored 10 of his 20 in the extra period for Dallas.

The Trail Blazers lost their seventh straight road game by blowing an 11-point lead in the last 2 minutes of regulation. Nowitzki's high-arching swish from the top of the key with 20 seconds left finished a 7-0 run for a 96-all tie.

The Mavericks scored the first nine points of overtime as part of a 22-2 run. Parsons started overtime with two free throws and pumped his fist after a fadeaway jumper that put Dallas ahead by 10.

Damian Lillard scored 26 points and LaMarcus Aldridge had 25 for the Blazers.

Warriors 106, Knicks 92

In New York, Draymond Green had 20 points and 13 rebounds, and Golden State beat New York to give Steve Kerr a win in his first game coaching in the arena he nearly called home.

Kerr picked the Warriors over the Knicks during the offseason, and the difference is 30 victories as the teams near the All-Star break.

Stephen Curry scored 22 points and Klay Thompson had 16 on a night neither shot well.

Golden State improved to 40-9, tops in the Western Conference, while the Knicks fell to 10-41.

Langston Galloway scored 15 points for the Knicks, who gave Carmelo Anthony a night off and lost their third straight.

Wizards 114, Nets 77

In Washington, John Wall scored 17 points, Rasual Butler had 15 and Washington beat Brooklyn to break a five-game skid.

Playing without starting guard Bradley Beal, who sat out with an injured right big toe, Washington led throughout. The 37-point margin of victory was its largest of the season.

Brook Lopez led the Nets with 19 points.

Jazz 102, Kings 90

In Salt Lake City, Gordon Hayward scored 30 points in Utah's victory over Sacramento.

Derrick Favors finished with 20 points for the Jazz and Enes Kanter had 17 points and 13 rebounds. The Jazz had lost five of six and were playing their fourth game in five days.

DeMarcus Cousins led the Kings with 27 points and 10 rebounds.

Bucks 96, Celtics 93

In Milwaukee, Brandon Knight scored 26 points and Giannis Antetokounmpo added 14 points and 11 rebounds to help Milwaukee beat Boston for its sixth win in seven games.

Jared Sullinger had 17 points and Marcus Smart added 13 for Boston.

76ers 89, Hornets 81

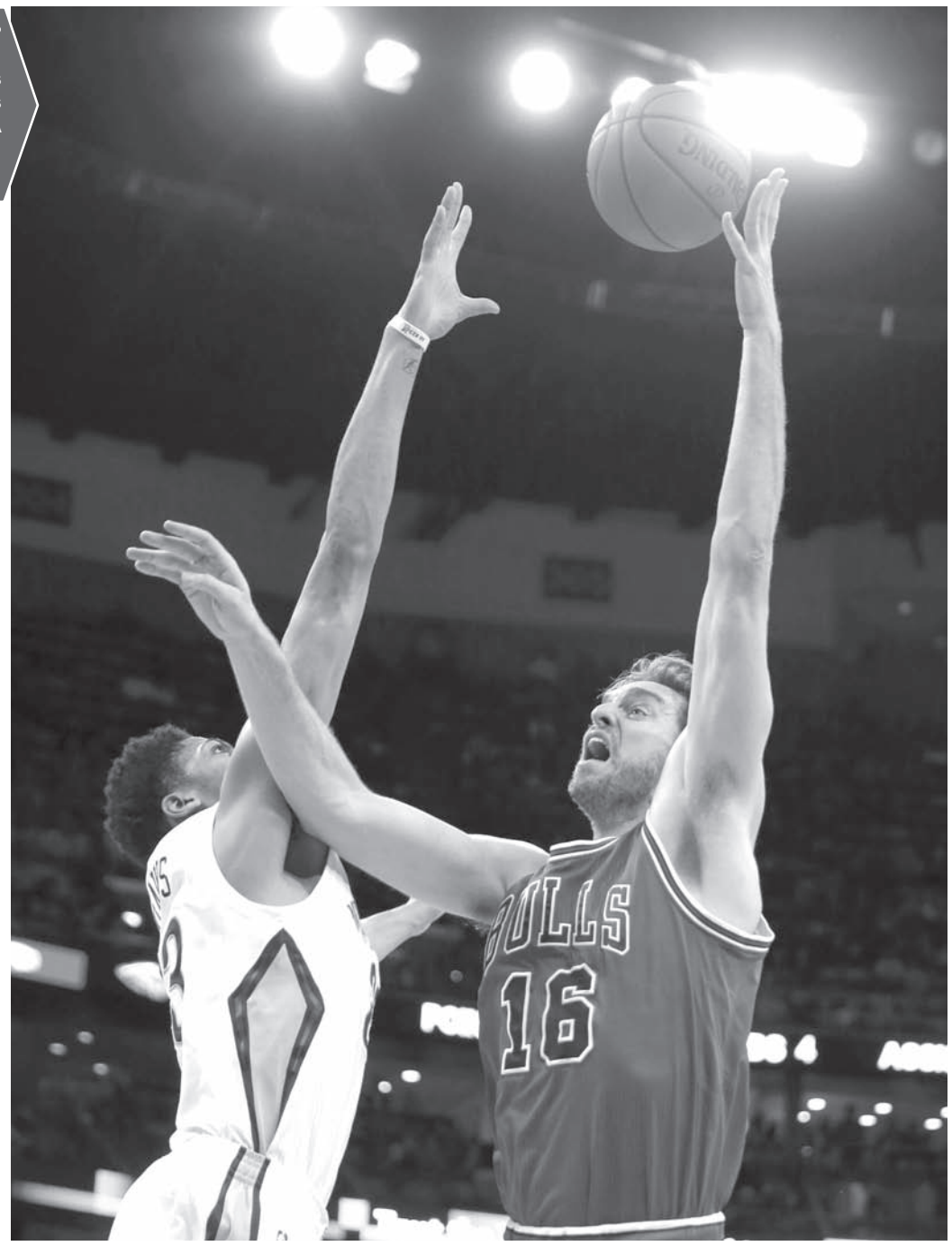
In Philadelphia, Robert Covington scored 11 of his 22 points in a pivotal third quarter, leading Philadelphia past Charlotte.

It was Philadelphia's fourth straight home victory after opening the season 3-18 on its home floor.

Hollis Thompson added 18 points for Philadelphia. Al Jefferson had 18 points for Charlotte.

AP

Chicago Bulls forward Pau Gasol (16) shoots against New Orleans Pelicans forward Anthony Davis (23) in the first half of an NBA basketball game in New Orleans, Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015.



SIDEBAR

Paul fined $25,000 for criticizing female official

NEW YORK (AP)—Los Angeles Clippers guard Chris Paul has been fined $25,000 for criticizing a female official after a loss at Cleveland.

The NBA announced the fine on Saturday. Paul was given a technical by rookie referee Lauren Holtkamp on Thursday night in the third quarter of a 105-94 loss to the Cavaliers, a game that featured five technicals against the Clippers.

After the game, Paul called the technical on an inbounds play "ridiculous" and said "this might not be for her." Holtkamp is one of two female officials in the NBA.

Paul appeared to say something to her as he waited for an inbound pass after a Cavaliers' free throw. Paul said Friday that he was only upset with the call.

The penalty is in line with others the NBA has levied for criticism of officials.

NFL BRIEFS

NFL fines Irvin, 3 others for roles in Super Bowl shoving

NEW YORK (AP)—Seattle Seahawks linebacker Bruce Irvin has been fined $10,000 by the NFL for his role in a scuffle with 18 seconds left in the Super Bowl. Three other players received lesser fines. Seattle defensive end Michael Bennett and New England Patriots tight ends Rob Gronkowski and Michael Hoomanawanui were fined $8,628 each. Hoomanawanui was fined for unnecessary roughness, the others for striking an opponent late. The shoving began after Patriots quarterback Tom Brady took a knee following cornerback Malcolm Butler's interception with 20 seconds left in the Patriots' 28-24 victory. Irvin was ejected and apologized for his actions. The NFL said earlier that Seattle wide receiver Doug Baldwin was fined $11,025 for unsportsmanlike conduct after his 3-yard touchdown catch that gave the Seahawks a 24-14 lead.

Seahawks' Sherman, girlfriend welcome baby boy

RENTON, Wash. (AP)—Just as Richard Sherman predicted, his new son was a disciplined young man. Sherman's girlfriend, Ashley Moss, gave birth to the couple's first child Thursday morning, four days after the Super Bowl. Sherman tweeted about the birth around 4 a.m. PST. "My son sure does know how to make an entrance! 2/5/15... Is it a coincidence or is he just that clever?! Either way I'm ecstatic," Sherman, whose jersey number is 25, tweeted. The pending birth and what Sherman would do if Moss—who was in Arizona with the team—went into labor around game time became one of the biggest stories of Super Bowl week. Three days before the game, Sherman joked, "I think he's going to be a disciplined young man and stay in there until after the game. He's going to do his father his first favor and stay in there for another week or two."

Obit: 'We blame Seahawks lousy play call for Mike's death'

SPOKANE, Wash. (AP)—The family of a Seahawks fan who died after the Super Bowl says he would have enjoyed the dig at the team they put in the last line of his obituary: "We blame the Seahawks lousy play call for Mike's untimely death." The obituary for Michael Vedvik appeared Thursday in The Spokesman-Review. His wife, Stephanie, says he would have found the line hilarious. The 53-year-old Kent man actually didn't see the game. He recorded it, intending to watch later, and went to sleep not feeling well, thinking it was indigestion or stress. He died in bed after a heart attack. His brother-in-law added the line about Seattle's unsuccessful last play to the obituary and Stephanie Vedvik approved. Mike Vedvik's funeral will be Saturday at Mount Spokane Church in Mead

Bills to sign Incognito, key figure in bullying scandal

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—The Buffalo Bills have agreed in principle to sign Richie Incognito, the offensive guard who has been out of football since 2013 after being one of the central figures in the Miami Dolphins' bullying scandal. The Bills announced the move in a two-paragraph release Saturday night. Incognito has nine seasons of NFL experience, and briefly played for the Bills in 2009. He has not played since being suspended and missing the final eight games of the 2013 season. The discipline came after an NFL investigation determined Incognito and two other Dolphins offensive linemen engaged in persistent harassment of teammate Jonathan Martin, who left the team. Martin spent last season with San Francisco.

Judge takes Peterson arbitration arguments under advisement

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The NFL Players Association's attempt to have Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson reinstated has been taken under advisement by a federal judge. U.S. District Judge David Doty heard arguments from the NFLPA and the NFL on Friday. He did not provide a timetable for his decision. Peterson has been suspended at least through April 15 after he was charged in a child abuse case last year, a case he resolved with a plea bargain. NFLPA attorney Jeffrey Kessler said arbitrator Harold Henderson's rejection of Peterson's appeal was biased. Dan Nash, a lawyer for the league, said the union is simply is seeking to "re-litigate" the appeal and is bound by the collective bargaining agreement to the arbitration. Peterson said afterward he felt he had "a fair hearing, for once."

Holmes, English tied for lead at Torrey Pines

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Two poor chips wound up costing Harris English three shots. He battled just to get birdie chances on the South Course at Torrey Pines and only converted two of them. He wound up with a 1-over 73 and a share of the lead with J.B. Holmes on Saturday in the Farmers Insurance Open.

And he was pleased with his performance.

The previous three tournaments he played this year, a 73 would have sent English spiraling down the leaderboard. Not this week.

"It's hard to play Torrey Pines and not be a difficult day," English said. "I know 1-over par is never good on the PGA Tour, but today it keeps me in the tournament. I could have easily pressed a little bit and turned that 1 over into a 3 or 4 over. ... I'm coming off the day very pleased and looking forward to tomorrow."

Holmes birdied all but one of the par 5s and escaped with bogey on his one big miss in the third round. He had a 68 to match the low score of the round and join English on top of a very crowded leaderboard going into the final round.

A dozen players were separated by two shots, and all but three of those players have won on the PGA Tour. Two of them, Jimmy Walker and Bill Haas, have won in the last month. Considering this is the South Course at Torrey Pines, Sunday might be more about survival than shootout.

"This is a U.S. Open golf course," English said. "And you've got to treat it like that."

English led by as many as three shots early in the third round until his streak of 39 holes at par or better ended with a double bogey on No. 4 when his chip ran to the upper tier of the green. He lost the lead again late in his round with a poor chip on the 16th.

English and Holmes were at 9-under 207 with a host of contenders behind them.

The South Course hosted the 2008 U.S. Open—and gets another U.S. Open in six years—and while the setup isn't the same, it's not far off. The rough is so thick that when Jhonattan Vegas, two shots behind after a 73, missed the fairway by a few feet, he had to stoop over just to see his golf ball.

AP

J.B. Holmes blasts from the bunker on the first hole of the south course at Torrey Pines during the third round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament Saturday, Feb. 7, 2015, in San Diego.

No one shot better than 68, and only six players broke 70.

"Guys are getting bunched," Walker said. "You've got par 5s that are tough, and a lot of them are unreachable."

Walker, playing for the first time since his nine-shot win in the Sony Open, had 261 yards to the hole on the par-5 18th with a slight breeze in his face. He decided at the last minute to go up one club with a 3-wood, choked up slightly and hit a cut. It wound up about 12 feet by the hole, and his eagle putt to share the lead touched the right side of the cup. He tapped in for a 70.

Holmes is on the A-list of power players, and while his length helped, his short game led to birdies. He got up-and-down from a bunker on No. 6, reached the greenside bunker in two shots on the 603-yard 13th hole and had to lay up on the 18th after driving into the rough. He holed a 12-footer for birdie.

He was tied for the lead until pulling his tee shot into a hazard left of the 17th fairway, and then putting the next shot into a bunker. But he got up-and-down to escape with bogey and had a share of the lead when English made his late bogey.

"This golf course is a big, ball-striking course," Holmes said. "So you've got to hit it in the fairway, you've got to hit some good shots and give yourself a chance for some birdies. ... The rough, it probably plays worse than it did at the U.S. Open when they had it here in 2008."

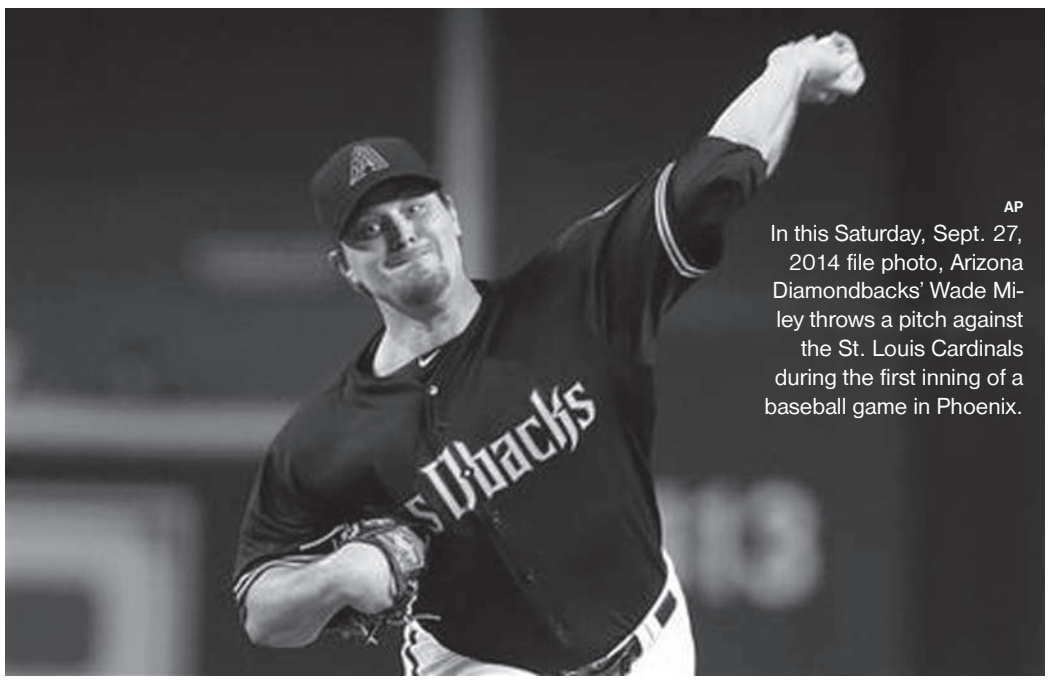
Lucas Glover holed a bunker shot for eagle on the last hole for a 70 and will be in the final group with Holmes and English, a close friend. No shot was more memorable for Chad Campbell than his hole-in-one on the picturesque third hole with a pitching wedge. He played well the other 17 holes for a 70 and is in the hunt for his first victory in more than seven years.

Others at 8-under 208 were Spencer Levin (70) and Nick Watney, who made all pars on the back nine for a 72.

English, a two-time winner on tour, figured anything under par on Sunday might be good enough to win.

"This is a lot different than say, the Humana Challenge a couple weeks ago, where if you have a stretch of six holes and then don't make a birdie you feel like you're getting lapped," English said. "Out here, you're just holding on. Make a birdie and you feel like you're picking up shots on the field, and that's the beauty about tomorrow."

Miley agrees to $19.25M, 3-year deal with Red Sox



AP

In this Saturday, Sept. 27, 2014 file photo, Arizona Diamondbacks' Wade Miley throws a pitch against the St. Louis Cardinals during the first inning of a baseball game in Phoenix.

BOSTON (AP)—Red Sox general manager Ben Cherington is pretty much done adding for this offseason.

"I would expect the group we have for spring training is in place," he said Thursday after the Red Sox announced a $19.25 million, three-year contract with left-hander Wade Miley that avoided salary arbitration.

Miley is part of a new-look trio along with right-handers Rick Porcello and Justin Masterson, joining holdovers Clay Buchholz and Joe Kelly.

Boston's rotation transformation began last July when the 2013 World Series champions traded four members of the group that started the season: Jon Lester, John Lackey, Jake Peavy and Felix Doubront. The Red Sox negotiated to bring Lester back after they finished last in the AL East, but the left-hander signed with the Chicago Cubs.

While they didn't sign an ace to replace him, Cherington is upbeat about his starters. Porcello was obtained from Detroit for outfielder Yoenis Cespdes and two minor league pitchers. Masterson left Cleveland to sign as a free agent.

"We feel good about where we are," Cherington said.

Miley gets a $500,000 signing bonus as part of Thursday's agreement and salaries of $3.5 million this year, $6 million in 2016 and $8.75 million in 2017. Boston has a $12 million option for 2018 with a $500,000 buyout, and the price could increase to $14 million.

The option would go up by $1.5 million if Miley has 220 or more innings in 2017 or 400 or more innings in 2016-17 combined, including at least 210 in 2017. He also must pass a physical after the Red Sox finish play in 2007. The price would increase by $500,000 if he finishes among the top two in Cy Young Award voting in any year from 2015-17.

Boston acquired the 2012 NL All-Star from the Arizona Diamondbacks on Dec. 12 for right-handers Rubby De La Rosa and Allen Webster, and minor league infielder Raymel Flores. Miley was 8-12 with a 4.34 ERA and 183 strikeouts in 201 1-3 innings last season, when 25 percent of his pitches were sliders, up from 21 percent in 2013 and 14 percent in 2012, according to Brooks Baseball.

"I really didn't know it until somebody told me," Miley said during a telephone conference call with Cherington.

In each of his three full major league seasons, all with Arizona, Miley started at least 29 games and pitched at least 194 2-3 innings.

"The best predictor of future durability and performance is past durability and performance," Cherington said. "When we traded for him, our full expectation was that he could be here for a while."

Miley is coming off his poorest statistical season. He was 16-11 with a 3.33 ERA in 2012, then went 10-10 with a 3.55 ERA.

"A consistent performer in a tough place to pitch," Cherington said. "We've seen some guys who left there and performed even better."

SIDEBAR

Angels slugger Josh Hamilton has shoulder surgery

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Los Angeles Angels slugger Josh Hamilton could be out for two months after surgery on his right shoulder, putting in doubt his availability for opening day.

The Angels said Hamilton had the operation Wednesday to repair his AC joint.

Hamilton's shoulder has been bothering him since last September. The Angels open April 6 at Seattle and it's uncertain whether the left fielder will be ready.

Hamilton felt renewed pain in his shoulder last week after increasing the intensity of his offseason workouts, and the club decided on surgery at the Texas Metroplex Institute for Sports Medicine and Orthopedics.

Full recovery for the 2010 AL MVP is estimated as six to eight weeks, but Hamilton could resume baseball activities in one month.

The 33-year-old Hamilton hasn't played at an MVP level since joining the Angels with a $125 million, five-year contract as a free agent before the 2013 season. He has 31 homers and 123 RBIs in two years for Los Angeles, and was booed regularly by his home fans late last season.

AP

In this Aug. 3, 2014, file photo, Los Angeles Angels' Josh Hamilton watches from the dugout during a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays in St. Petersburg, Fla.

The shoulder injury, along with pain in his ribs and back, likely contributed to Hamilton's 0-for-13 postseason performance. The Angels, who were swept out of the division series by Kansas City after finishing the regular season with the majors' best record.

Hamilton also tore a ligament in his thumb last April after sliding headfirst into a base, missing more than seven weeks.

He had planned to begin spring training workouts with the Angels' pitchers and catchers on Feb. 20 in Tempe, Arizona. He missed much of last season's spring training while recovering from an injured calf.

Hamilton usually plays left field for the Angels, but newly acquired Matt Joyce and returnee Collin Cowgill are likely to replace him.

Gechig, 3 others earn NMSA honors

By JON PEREZ
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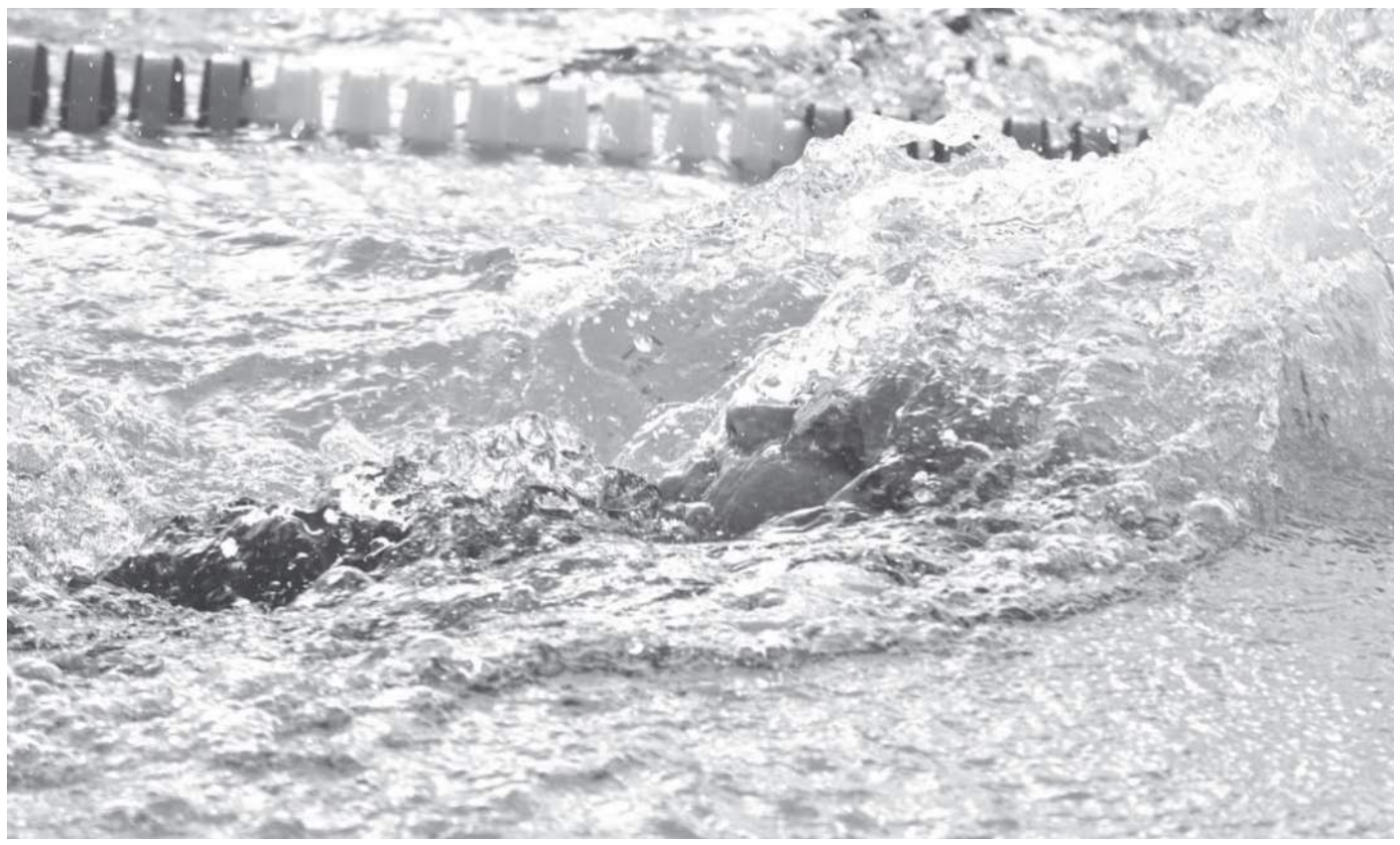
REPORTER



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tsunami Saipan's Ashley Dangol competes in the 50m backstroke race in last month's SSC Pentathlon Swim Meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

ATHLETES of the MONTH

J.R. Gechig was named the Northern Marianas Sports Association January Athlete of the Month to lead three others that clinched the award given during the sports group's monthly meeting last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium conference room.

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association nominated Gechig after he ruled the two-person reverse grass volleyball tournament held last Jan. 17 at the Navy Hill court.

This is the fourth time that Gechig, who is one of the CNMI's best young volleyball players, won the annual event and with different partners.

He teamed up with this time with Charnessa Lizama, who was the female athlete honors.

Taiga Sato and 8-year-old Ashley Dangol earned the TSL Foundation NMSA Male and Female Student Athlete awards.

Sato, a seventh grader at Tanapag Middle School who's been swimming for seven years now, recorded five personal best times in the recently concluded Saipan Swim Club Pentathlon meet.

The 12-year-old recorded PBTs in the 50-meter freestyle, butterfly, breaststroke, and backstroke and the 200m individual medley.

Aside from swimming, Sato also practices kendo three days a week.

Dangol, meanwhile, broke two CNMI records in last month's SSC Pentathlon meet. She clocked 37.24 seconds to break the decade-long female Under-8 50m freestyle record of 38.07 previously held by Jellian Majors.

She then reset her own national record of 45.39 seconds in the U8 50m backstroke by registering 43.69 seconds. She also holds the U8 records in the 50m freestyle and 50m backstroke.

MCDONALD'S

From Page 28

Lieto blasted two home runs including a fourth-inning grand slam in a 3-for-5 appearance at the plate. He also had three runs and four RBIs.

Deleon Guerrero scored three times and had two RBIs, while Fleming went 4-for-4 with a two-run shot in a 10-run second inning.

Babauta went 5-for-5 with five runs, a double, and three RBIs, while also giving up two unearned runs on two hits with two walks.

Comets 10, Little Padres 4

The IT&E Comets completed a 10-4 decision over the Little Padres with Alvin Hocog pitching a complete game.

Hocog gave up one earned run, a solo shot by Jaylen Sablan, on two hits with one walk and three strikeouts.

Red Sox 13, Little Legals 3

Devan Pangelinan blasted a two-RBI homer in the third to power the Red Sox to victory.

JUNIOR LEAGUE
Fielders 11, Red Sox 7

Jaydon Tenorio went 2-for-3 and had two runs in the Fielders' 11-7 win over the Red Sox.

Tenorio reached home on a Kimo Aingalen RBI single in the Fielders' four-run third inning.

Four pitchers came in for the Fielders with starter Tyrese Camacho lasting for four innings giving up two hits while fanning nine and walking five.

He was a re-entry in the latter innings to secure the victory for the Fielders, who also had Aingalen, Dai Podziewski, and Sho Taguchi sharing pitching duties.

Falcons 12, Enforcers 2

Spencer Dickenson and Leo Salalilu each batted 2-for-5 with the former having an RBI single while the latter had a double.

Andres Camacho pitched four innings in relief, giving up one hit while striking out nine batters while walking three.

Jester Kintaro closed out and shut down the Enforcers fanning two and walking three. Salalilu started for the Falcons and pitched three innings giving up one hit with four strikeouts and three walks.

Lawrence Fleming and Shakobe Rangamar scored the Enforcers' two runs in the third and sixth innings.

Fleming, who walked in the third, advanced to second on a wild pitch and crossed home plate on Larson Sebitan's RBI single.

Rangamar, who was safe on first on a Dickenson fielding error, stole second, and reached home on a passed ball.

SENIOR LEAGUE
Fielders 2, Comets 0

Ethan Babauta pitched a complete game and was almost unhittable to lead the Fielders to victory on Sunday.

Babauta shut down the Comets giving up one hit, while striking out four and with no walks, while the defense also did their share by either preventing their opponents' runners to advance or stranding them with putout plays.

Babauta also hit a triple and scored on a Nathan Nogis fielder's choice, while Henry Lizama, who got on base on a Ton Ilo throwing error, stole second, and reached home on a Franklin Lizama RBI single.

The Fielders' win erased the memory of its forfeit loss to the Braves last Saturday.

The Fielders were forced to forfeit the game after their players documents were incomplete.

CLOSE

From Page 28

the closing seconds to lift the Slashers in the 3-point win. He went 2-for-2 from the foul line, giving the Slashers a 67-64 cushion, with less than 10 seconds remaining on the clock.

Saipan Warriors (1-2) had a chance to force the game into overtime when Nelson Samson pulled up for a triple and was fouled. However, Samson hit only one of his three charities, allowing the Slashers to keep the lead as they run down the clock.

Sonny Ebuen top-scored for the Slashers with his 19 points, while Abadilla backed him up, adding 13.

Samson had a game-high 21 points, while Reli Del Rio chipped in 19.

In the second game, Randy Mungcal, Marlon Sison, and Ed Pangelinan teamed up in KB Hite's fourth-quarter rally to foil the Boomers' bid for their first win.

Down by 5 at the end of the third period, 60-65, Mungcal, Sison, and Pangelinan combined for 19 of KB Hite's 27 markers in the fourth to steal the victory from the Boomers. The Boomers scored only 17 points in the fourth—their lowest output in a quarter.

Pangelinan led all scorers with his 31 points, as his 3-point shooting in the second and third periods prevented the Boomers from breaking away. Sison contributed 15, 7 came in the final canto, while Mungcal also hit 7 his 10 markers in the pivotal fourth.

Mico Usi had 16 points to pace the Boomers, while Dindo Pablo, Bobby Dela Cruz, and Art Salazar also finished in twin digits, drilling 15, 14, and 13, respectively.

First Game

Slashers 67 – S. Ebuen 19, Abadilla 13, Tibayan 9, Tengco 6, Alvarez 5, De Jesus 4, Bautista 4, Villasan 2, Leong 2.

Saipan Warriors 65 – Samson 21, Del Rio 19, Geli 14, Mateo 4, Tiples 4, Domingo 1.

Scoring by quarters: 19-18, 35-27, 52-41, 67-65.

Second Game

KB Hite 87 – Pangelinan 31, Sison 15, Mungcal 10, Yalung 8, Verano 8, Pineda 5, Duenas 4, Koebel 3, Demapan 2.

Boomers 82 – Usi 16, Pablo 15, Dela Cruz 14, Salazar 13, Joson 7, Echavez 7, Culala 4, Cortez 2.

Scoring by quarters: 22-25, 41-47, 60-65, 87-82.

RASTGUIY

From Page 28

the weekend at the AMP tennis courts.

In the girls U10 singles, which has a round-robin format, Hyejin Elliot and Tiara Imai barged into the win column after downing separate foes. Elliot shut down Michelle Ryu, 6-0, while Imai topped Soleil Lamar, 6-3.

In girls U12 singles, Erika Tuttle, Rico Oijima, and Couke Kaga earned semis berths. Kaga was at the bottom half of the draw and swept Ellie Epley, 6-0, 6-2, to arrange a semis tiff against Ojima. Ojima advanced following a 7-6, 6-0 win over Erie Ortega

At the top half of the draw, Tuttle defeated Maaya Sato, 6-2, 6-1, to set up a semis duel against the winner of the Maria Gregoire-Susan Sablan tussle, which was scheduled last Saturday, but results have yet to be posted at press time.

In the girls U14 singles, the semis cast were completed last Saturday with Conatu Kaga and Asia Raulerson joining Malika Miyawaki and Mimi Sakano, who drew byes in Week 1. Kaga beat Grace Choi, 6-1, 6-1, for a finals date with the top-ranked Miyawaki, while Raulerson dominated Susan Sablan, 6-0, 6-1, to earn the right to face the second-ranked Sakano in the semis.

In the girls U16, Tan won the lone game played in Week 1 after outclassing Ami Tsukagoshi, 6-4, 6-1. The girls U16 follows a round-robin format as it drew only four players with Caitlyn Tinney and Isabel Heras rounding out the list.

Meanwhile, results in the three boys age groups, men's open, and mixed-up doubles will be reported later this week.

Arum: Mayweather-Pacquiao TV issues resolved, others remain

TIM DAHLBERG
AP BOXING WRITER

BOXING

HBO and Showtime have agreed on how they would broadcast a fight between Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Manny Pacquiao, promoter Bob Arum said on Thursday, leaving only two remaining issues to be settled before the much anticipated May 2 fight can be signed.

Arum told The Associated Press the rival networks have come to terms on an announcing team and other details for the pay-per-view blockbuster, and that talks this week have narrowed the remaining differences between the Mayweather and Pacquiao camps.

"We had four issues and we resolved two," said Arum, who promotes Pacquiao. "Now we're working on resolving the other two. Unless something else comes up at the last minute, that's what my take is."

Not so fast, said Stephen Espinoza, executive vice president for Showtime Sports.

"There are a few significant issues remaining on both the fighter side and the network side of this deal," Espinoza said. "While we are optimistic, it's a bit premature to say that the networks are in total agreement."

Arum declined to say what those two issues were, saying he didn't want to sabotage the negotiations just as they were reaching a critical juncture. And it was not clear whether the Mayweather side views the negotiations the same as Arum, or even if Mayweather will agree to the fight.

Mayweather's adviser is Al Haymon, who reportedly has been doing the negotiating on his fighter's behalf. But Haymon doesn't talk to the media, and Mayweather communicates almost exclusively through social media.

Mayweather's latest postings showed him enjoying a trip on a private jet to the Caribbean and getting a fish pedicure. He did post on social media last week that a media report the fight was a done deal was a "lie."

Arum said the major financial points of the fight have been agreed to, including a reported 60-40 split in the purse in Mayweather's favor. Based on the fight doing a record $200 million or more in revenue, Mayweather's payday could be at least $120 million.

MHS rolls past Kagman in MISO caging

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Defending champion Marianas High School banked on Michael Espinosa's game-long brilliance in cruising to a 74-43 decision over Kagman High School in last Friday's game in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League at the MHS Gymnasium.

On Wednesday, MHS breezed through another easy 73-28 win over Grace Christian Academy.

Espinosa scattered 25 points to power MHS to its eighth straight win to remain on top of the 13-team field while handing Kagman its fourth loss in seven games.

Espinosa scored 12 of his total output in the second period where he helped the Dolphins, who pulled away early, enjoy a whopping 49-13 spread at the turn.

Even when Espinosa went scoreless in the third, the reigning titlists were never threatened and entered the fourth period with an insurmountable lead, 60-25.

DJay Ong was the other MHS player who finished in twin digits with 10, while Karlo De Leon had 9 markers. Ethan Manalili and Kobee Mendoza chipped in 8 points each.

Andrew Palino was the only Ayuyu to hit double figures with 17, while Vladimir Arceo, Justice Evangelista, Doming Faisao, Kenneth Lizama, and Melvin Sakisat made 4 apiece.

Mt. Carmel School, meanwhile, squeezed out a 55-53 win over Saipan Southern High School to tie their victims at third to fourth places with 6-2 cards.

William Camacho paced Mt. Carmel's scoring with 16, while Son Jong Hyun contributed 13 more. Zander Tkel made 9 markers.

Jethro Cruz and Gerald Flores combined for 30 of Southern's points.

In the first game, SSHS junior varsity waltzed to a 67-34 victory against MHS 9 with N-Nes Siech and Joseph Taitano scoring 12 points each.

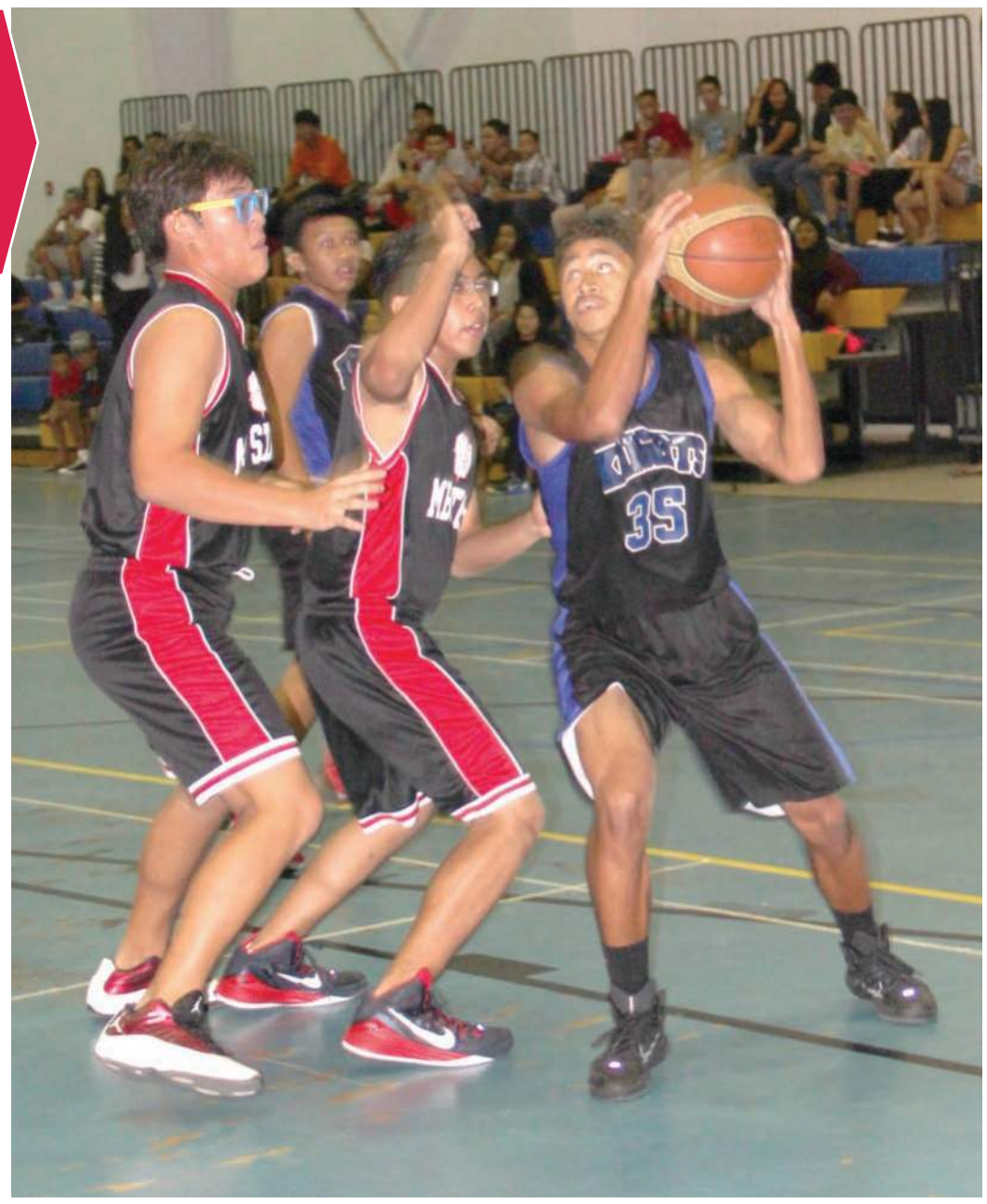
No MHS 9 player reach double digits with Matthew Mamaril ending up with 8, while Jake Pangelinan and Casey Hofschneider tallied 8 and 7 markers, respectively.

SSHS JV also defeated KHS, 55-37, on Wednesday.

In the other game last Wednesday, Saipan International School kept Marianas Baptist Academy winless after a 52-44 decision.

On Monday, KHS 9 squeezed out a 56-55 win over MHS 9; SSHS 9 slipped past KHS JV, 43-36; and SSHS varsity trounced SIS, 70-27.

JON PEREZ
Mt. Carmel School's Zander Tkel, right, tries to score against two Marianas Baptist Academy players in an earlier game in the 2014-2015 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League. Tkel is doing his share to help the Knights' title bid this season.



First Game

SSHS JV 67 – Siech 12, Taitano 12, Anderson 9, Muna 8, Alipio 6, Borromeo 6, Kapileo 6, Aque 4, Ada 2, Cobacha 2.

MHS 9 34 – Mamaril 8, Pangelinan 7, Hofschneider 6, Manglona 4, Huliganga 3, Mendoza 2, Prado 2, Tanghal 2.

Scoring by quarters: 15-5, 25-14, 57-19, 67-34.

Second Game

MCS 55 – Camacho 16, Son 13, Tkel 9, Deleon Guerrero 6, Toves 6, Hahn 5.

SSHS 53 – Cruz 20, Flores 10, Palacios 6, Javier 4, Raquero 4, Kintaro 3.

Scoring by quarters: 15-8, 24-22, 36-33, 55-53.

Third Game

MHS 74 – Espinosa 25. Ong 10, De Leon 9, Manalili 8, Mendoza 8, Arciaga 7, Benavente 5, Malonzo 3.

KHS 43 – Palino 17, Arceo 4, Evangelista 4, Faisao 4, Lizama 4, Sakisat 4, Prado 3, Paran 2, Phillips 1.

24-7, 49-13, 60-25, 74-43.

Lady Dolphins earn top seed in MISO v'ball

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Marianas High School clinched the top seed after going undefeated in the varsity division of the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Volleyball League, which ended its season last week.

The Lady Dolphins swept all of its 10 games and did not drop a set since debuting with back-to-back victories against 2013 titlists Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles and the Mt. Carmel School Lady Knights on Jan. 8.

The reigning champs bounced back from an opening-set loss in its title showdown against GCA and dethroned the then defending titlists, 24-26, 25-20, 18-16.

GCA came in second with an 8-2 card with its two losses against MHS and MCS this season.

Saipan International School and MCS ended up with identical 5-5 slates to end up tied for third, but the former secured the No. 3 seeding in this weekend's final tournament based on the number of sets won.

SIS varsity won 73.7 percent of the sets they played or 14 out of 19, while MCS came up with 63.2 percent or 12-of-19.

Kagman High School finished fifth at 2-8 with two of its wins against winless Saipan Southern High School.

SSHS' junior varsity squad, meanwhile, topped the junior varsity standings after beating MHS JV in the tiebreak. Both teams ended up with 6-2 slates but Southern had won the most number of sets with 69.6 percent (16-of-23) compared to MHS' 65 percent (13-of-20).

MCS JV came in third with a 5-3 card followed by SIS JV's even 4-4 record, while Kagman JV had only one win in its eight games to complete the standings.

JON PEREZ
Marianas High School remains the team to beat when the 2014-2015 season of the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Volleyball League holds its finals this weekend at the MHS Gymnasium.

Veterans take Game 1 in Rocball finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Veterans pulled off a 43-37 win in Game 1 of its title series against the Teachers in the 2014-2015 Saipan Rocball League last Friday at the Marianas High School last week.

The Veterans got the breaks in the closing part of the fourth set to juice-out the Teachers and draw first blood in their best-of-five championship showdown. A juiced-out win is given to a team that has the lead after regulation and also won the fourth set.

The Veterans prevailed in the final set, 12-10, bouncing back from a 7-11 deficit to foil the Teachers' bid to send the game in overtime. Besides their victory in the fourth set, the Veterans also topped the second and third set, 13-4, 12-10. The Teachers took the opening set, 13-6, and was pressured to win the last set after dropping the second and third.

The Teachers failed to win the important set and extend the series opener, as it missed a game point and were given a 2-point deduction. The bad break hit the Teachers as they faltered on their first serve, returning possession to the Veterans.

The Veterans capitalized on the Teachers' tough luck and scored a string of three points to close out Game 1 and gain momentum in the series. Game 1 was originally set for today, but was moved to last Friday to give way to the schedule of some players. With the series opener done, Game 2 will be played today, while Game 3 is set for Tuesday.

The Veterans and Teachers arranged their final showdown after eliminating Local Motion and Benchwarmers in their separate semis series. The Veterans swept Local Motion in a best-of-three semis duel, while the Teachers earned a 2-1 triumph over the top-ranked Benchwarmers, who were unbeaten in the elimination before falling to the upset axe of the Teachers.

The Teachers, who are composed of MHS' Tyce Mister, Nick Gross, and Kathy and Jacoby Winkfield, seemed ready for another stunner when they downed the J.R. Gechig-led Veterans in the first set. However, Gechig and company regained their bearings quickly and swept the last three sets to move two wins away from winning the league championship.

Eleven aces were scored in Game 1 with the Teachers slightly head, 6-5, while the Veterans led in the kees (a hit scored behind the 10-foot line) department, 6-3.

Davis hurts shoulder, Bulls pound Pelicans, 107-72

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McDonald's opens with win over Twins

JON PEREZ

The Falcons' Jester Kintaro, front, and a teammate run toward home plate in their game against the Enforcers in the Junior League of the Saipan Little League last Saturday at the Francisco M. "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Team McDonald's kicked off the Saipan Little League Baseball season with an 18-10 drubbing of the As Matuis Twins yesterday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Baseball Field.

McDonald's used an 11-run first inning barrage against the Twins to pull away and the defense did their share in securing the victory.

Donaven Deleon Guerrero hit a solo homerun in that McDonald's run in the first inning while also hitting an RBI triple in the second.

Lily Podziewski had an RBI double and an RBI triple in the first.

The Twins tried to stage a comeback but John Santos foiled their rally in the final inning.

Podziewski and Santos shared pitching duties for McDonald's and limited the Twins to five hits while walking six and striking out four.

Ol'Aces 26, Jets 2

On Saturday, Trevor Lieto hit a grand slam, and Latrel Deleon Guerrero and Joaquin Fleming also had round-trippers each while Jordan Babauta struck out eight in the Ol'Aces' easy win.

See MCDONALD'S on Page 26

Close wins for Slashers, KB Hite

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Slashers' Gerry Farinas, right, fakes off the defense of Blue Haus' Tony Diaz during the third quarter of their game in the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League last Saturday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Slashers and KB Hite recorded close wins over separate foes in the 2015 Graphics Invitational Masters Basketball League last Friday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The Slashers eked out a 67-65 victory against Saipan Warriors in the curtain-raiser to barge into the win column in the seven-team field after dropping its debut over Armatech last week. In the second game, KB Hite pulled off a come-from-behind 87-72 win versus the Boomers (0-2) to improve to a 2-1 record.

Ariel Abadilla knocked in pressure-packed free throws in

See CLOSE on Page 26

Rastguiy leads Week 1 winners

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Negahr Rastguiy completed the semis cast in the women's singles event in the 2015 Coconut Tennis Classic after sweeping Malika Miyawaki yesterday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Rastguiy eased past Miyawaki, 6-1, 6-0, to join Mikayla Lopez, Tania Tan, and Carol Lee in the Final Four. The semis will be played this weekend with Rastguiy meeting Lopez at the top half of the bracket and Tan and Lee squaring off in the lower half.

Lee, Lopez, and Rastguiy are also entered in the girls U18 singles, which kicked off last Saturday. Lee and Rasyguiy played in Game 1 of the round-robin event with the former notching a 6-1, 6-0 victory. Lopez also won over Rastguiy via walkover to set up a finals date with Lee this weekend.

Four more girls division singles started the elimination round games were played over

See RASTGUIY on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Negahr Rastguiy goes for a baseline return to Carol Lee during their game in the girls U18 singles event of the 2015 Coconut Tennis Classic last Saturday at the AMP tennis courts.